Ardeley St Lawrence C of E Primary School

**Newsletter**

 17th December 2020

Dear Parents

**Thank you…**

We have reached the end of one of the most difficult terms (years!) that I have known as a teacher/Headteacher and that, I’m sure, you have known as a parent. Throughout everything we have all been so grateful for your support. I have had to make some very hard decisions, decisions which I know impact on every family at Ardeley. I have tried to keep everyone as safe as possible and to, at the same time, balance this with as normal education as possible for the children.
2020 has offered us all a significant challenge and our community has been our strength; supporting each other, adapting to changes like face masks and lining up on the playground and throughout it all it is the children who have shone most brightly. Their patience, understanding, courage and resilience have impressed me so much. I am sure you will agree that the staff have been phenomenal too; responding quickly to every change.

I look forward to 2021 and a light at the end of this tunnel. We know that restrictions will be in place for some time to come and we will continue to work together to be as safe as is possible.

However, I am hopeful of a more positive year and I am also able to reflect with thanks on the many positives that the past nine months have afforded us;

* The LOVE of others, our vocations and jobs and their importance to us,
* The HOPE of a successful return to school for our children and wellness in our community,
* The PEACE that time at home, away from the extra pressure of normal life and with our families offered us and,
* The JOY of simple times with our loved ones and the return of our children in September.

It is this love, hope, peace and joy that Christians think of at Christmas time and, I hope, four words which we all, in a year’s time, will associate with 2021.

 **Events…**

**Open Morning:** A link is on the website to our ‘virtual’ Open Morning video. Because of the unique layout of Ardeley I am also able to do individual, outside only, tours. Please do spread the word if you know someone looking for a school place for September 2021; you are our best advert!

Our Nursery admissions are also open – we deal with these ourselves, so please do call the office for an application form.

**INSET day:** Please remember that we have an INSET day on Monday 4 January.

**Online Nativity:** Our recorded Nativity, with songs and readings, is on our Youtube channel. Please do not share outside of this for privacy reasons.

**Covid…**

If you are notified that you have been in contact with someone who has Covid, **or anyone in your house has symptoms,** please do call us or email us on **before** **bringing your child to school.** **This includes siblings and parents.**

We can then check with the local Public Health team and advise you on the next steps. This dedicated email address is checked out of hours, including weekends.

**Please ensure you have read my recent email regarding the system for reporting positive cases up until Christmas Eve**, and how we would notify you if your child needs to isolate (via WisePay email or text from the school mobile). It is important that we notify anyone who may need to isolate, to protect anyone with vulnerable family. This letter is also on the website at <https://www.ardeley.herts.sch.uk/parents-info/covid-19-information-for-parents>

Please also check your emails and messages on Monday 4 January, in case there are any changes to the planned return to school, as this is a rapidly changing situation.

**Rota…**

Please ensure that children have trainers that they can do up themselves for PE days please.

Children are often outside for an entire morning or afternoon – **please ensure they now wear joggers rather than shorts on these days as the weather is definitely colder!**

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| **Week A** – 5 – 8th January |
| Tuesday – Forest School Session | Thursday - PE |
| UKS2 (1 hr) | KS1 | LKS2 | UKS2 |

Thanks from the staff and myself for all the lovely gifts and cards you have sent in to us. It is very kind and much appreciated.

My warmest wishes to you,

Mrs Connolly

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**Spring Diary Dates**

Monday 4 January INSET DAY

Tuesday 5 January Term starts