



Little Gaddesden C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Lorna Elkes

Newsletter 10th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The children are thoroughly enjoying rehearsing for our Christmas production and we are looking forward to sharing it with you. Thank you for sending in costumes so promptly.

Thank you to the school Friends for organising and coordinating a socially distanced toy sale over the last couple of days, especially as we have not been able to hold our usual Winter fare. No doubt, like many of us you are using your amazon accounts rather a lot of late. If you use Amazon smile, you may wish to select Little Gaddesden School friends which are a registered charity, as your chosen charity, it is also an easy way to support the school.

End of term arrangements and Covid notification

As you have probably seen in the recent press, there has been discussion around the last day of term. Schools are also being asked to continue to monitor **any** covid cases in their community for 6 days after the end of term.

The Government has given schools the option of using one of our 5 INSET days on the 18th December, thereby allowing schools to monitor covid cases until the 23rd December rather than until Christmas Eve.

Like all schools our INSET days have already been set and you will be aware that we have chosen to have two INSET days at the start of the spring term. Our end of term will therefore remain at 1:30pm on Friday 18th December.

Should anyone in your household develop symptoms or test positive, please notify us via covidnotice@littlegaddesden.herts.sch.uk . We will then be able to notify close contacts from school. This email will be checked daily throughout the Christmas holidays.

End of year assessment update

You may be aware from the government's announcements last week that there have been changes to the end of year assessment for primary pupils. This extract is from the government update.

[Exams 2021: parents Q&A](#)

It isn't just secondary school pupils who have missed time – my child is in primary school will they still have to do SATs?

*Pupils will not have to sit the same tests they would sit in a normal year. The **key stage 1** tests in English reading and maths and the English grammar, punctuation and spelling test at*

curious thinkers - confident individuals - independent learners - excellent results 1

*key stage 1 and 2 will be removed for one year. We are keeping some assessments though, because it is important for us to be able to understand the progress pupils are making. Primary assessments in summer 2021 will be focused on the **phonics screening check**, teacher assessment in English reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, tests in **English reading and mathematics and teacher assessment in English writing at key stage 2.***

We will of course offer information meetings with details about the end of year assessments for Year 6 nearer the time.

Sports during the holidays

Game-on over Christmas are offering a range of activities over the holidays - please click [here](#) for more details.

Christmas services at St Peter and St Paul's Church.

As with many other aspects of everyday life, the Church is not able to offer services as previously, however Rev'd John Russell has provided us with an update.

On Christmas Eve, in place of the usual Christmas Eve Crib you will be able to take part in a 'walk through Crib Service'. By arriving wearing a face mask and maintaining social distance, you can move through the Church, to the crib (which is larger this year), hear carols and listen to the Nativity Story.

There is also a live Christmas tree, recently planted in the churchyard, near the main door, as a permanent reminder of the pandemic of 2020. This will be adorned with lights each year. We are asking people throughout the community to make weather proof decorations that can be put on it.

Guitar lessons

We will be offering these from January, please contact the office for more details.

Infant Milk Spring Term 2021

If your child is in Class 1 or 2 and you would like them to have milk next term, please read the attached [letter](#) for more details. For children aged 5 and over the milk will cost £16.20 for the term and can be paid for via your School gateway account.

School Clubs

We still have some places for clubs for next term. Bookings can be made via your school gateway account. Football can be booked here for [KS2](#) and [Class 2](#). Yoga via this link <https://www.tillysdancefactory.co.uk/>

Parental support

There are a number of courses and contacts providing support for families please see attached flyers.

[Communication for Parents & Carers - 10.12.2020.pdf](#)

[Dacorum Online Parenting Course Brochure - Spring 2021.pdf](#)

Wellbeing

If you have not yet done so please complete the short **anonymous** [questionnaire](#) about your family's well being, especially during the lockdowns.

Relationship and Sex Education.

In line with government guidance, we are reviewing our RSE policy which can be found [here](#) or on the school website and seeking parents' views. Could you please complete this short [questionnaire](#) about it.

Running Club

[Wednesday Golden Mile running Club](#)

[Friday Golden Mile running club](#)

Lorna Elkes
Headteacher

Attached:

[Copy of Gardening club letter](#)

[Little Gaddesden - Football \(Spring 21\) - Years 3 to 6 - Wednesday ASC.pdf](#)

[Little Gaddesden - Football \(Spring 21\) - Years 1 & 2 - Wednesday LC.pdf](#)

<https://www.tillysdancefactory.co.uk/>

[Well Being questionnaire](#)

[RSE policy](#)

[Wednesday Golden Mile running Club](#)

[Friday Golden Mile running club](#)