



December 2020 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

I'd firstly like to say a huge thank you to all of you. In these tough times we rely on us all working as a team to make sure we keep ourselves and your children safe. As you know we currently have Miss Kemp's class self-isolating and getting to grips with Seesaw learning. I was so impressed by how well all of you in year 3 and 4 interacted with this system, it was obvious that so many of you worked with your children and helped us keep their education going. I sincerely hope you didn't find the last few weeks too challenging! We have already had some feedback from you regarding provision over the bubble closure and would welcome any more of your thoughts. You can email me directly. lpowell@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk . We are keen to make this system as effective as possible.

There will be no adult on the school crossing for the next week as Mrs Glover is unable to attend work.

Please help us by not sending your children to school with big bags, we can't store them at present. Many children are only bringing their book bag and water bottle. If they bring a packed lunch please send it in a small pack up bag. This would really help us.

Christmas!!!

It gives me great joy to write about some positive Christmas things! Christmas dinner will take place this year, although not in our usual format. There will be Turkey, crackers and festive chocolate brownies, in addition to all children being invited to wear Christmas jumpers ...that will make us all smile! The date for your diaries is **Friday December 11th**. **There is no need to pre book this year.** There will be a menu change that week. Wednesday will be beefy mac and cheese, Thursday, fish and chips and of course Christmas dinner on the Friday.

We will be celebrating via nativities and team Christmas celebrations. These will be filmed and links will be made available to you once they are completed. I imagine that this will be at some point in the last week of term.

I also believe that Santa may well be making a socially distanced appearance bearing gifts for each child during the last week of term. I can confirm that myself and the elves have got together to do a risk assessment, (Rudolph did run off with at one point), so it's all as Covid secure as possible!



Bubble Christmas parties will also happen, with food, games, dress down, daft Christmas hats anything to help us enjoy the festive season, even though it is a bit different. Individual teams will contact you with dates. Unfortunately there will be **no central school Christmas card box** this year; your children can send cards but only to children in their class. These can be sent to school between **the 7th and 11th December**. We will give them out the following week.

Our PTA is working hard behind the scenes to help make Christmas as special as possible, to have fun and raise a bit of extra funds. Many of you have joined in the virtual balloon race and I've seen some super design ideas from the children.

The virtual Christmas Market is currently active until Friday 4th December, there's still time to grab that special gift, take a look what's available on this link [ACE PTA Christmas Market](#)

Raffle tickets can also be purchased here [Buy raffle tickets](#)

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to support these events.

The PTA has also funded a virtual pantomime experience that the children will watch in the last week of term. Huge thanks with the gifts from Santa too!



Remembrance day

Although unable to support charities in the usual way this year we were able to mark remembrance day with a socially distanced act of collective worship and a minute silence in the peace garden followed by a memorable performance of the last post by Ava Jenkins, well done Ava!

Your kind donations totalling £203.50 will be given to the Royal British Legion.



Children in Need

We were also able to support Children in Need with a dress down day where the children came to school in their favourite clothes, again thank you for your kind donations, a total of £259.00 was raised.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

[Is your child entitled to received Free School Meals?](#)

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits, a full list and more details can be found on the school website [Free School Meals](#)

Don't miss out on receiving the benefit of free school meals if you are eligible. You could save over £400, the cost of a school dinner every day of the school year.

Applying is quick and easy, you can ring the School Food Support team at Leicestershire County Council directly on **0116 3057093** or **0116 3056409** alternatively you can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible or not just give them a call to check.

Covid Reminders

In the event of your family having to self-isolate or any positive test results outside of working hours please contact school immediately covid@ashbyce.leics.sch.uk This email will be checked each evening, early morning and across the weekends. This will help us take preventative action as soon as possible if needed. I know that the endless guidance can get a bit confusing and at times overwhelming. Don't forget the school website has clear guidance about what to do regarding symptoms and your child attending school.

Please do all you can to keep all our school open by following government guidance at all times, this will help us in minimising risks and controlling any outbreaks.. As infection rates continue to be high in our area, we are likely to have several staff members who will have to stay at home due to their own children's bubbles being closed. If this becomes unmanageable then there is a small possibility that

bubbles may have to close if we do not have enough staff to cover. We are trying to avoid any external staff, e.g unknown supply teachers coming into school as part of our risk management. We are incredibly fortunate that each team has their own staff area, we don't mix and all our meetings are remote whenever possible. This helps us reduce the risks of infection if any of our staff ever test positive.

Car Parking

I've had an increasing number of complaints from local residents in Trinity Court about inconsiderate parking. I'm appealing to those of you who use this area to please use the COOP car park; it really isn't that much further. Some of you are blocking resident's driveways, using them to turn round and parking dangerously on double yellow lines. I'm obviously concerned over the impact this has on our local community, but also on child safety. It is a matter of time before there is an accident on the junction of Trinity Court and Burton Road. Please consider this when bringing your children to school.

Breakfast & After School Club

We have made the decision to keep our breakfast and after school club closed after Christmas, we will review this towards February half term.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

For your information, today December 1st, Mrs Trahearn and I will be involved in a virtual Ofsted monitoring visit.