

Friday, 4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers



Personal Development Goals

This week's personal development strength is **empathy**. In our efforts to be more understanding of one another, we have been learning about the value of diversity and the importance of respecting one another's individuality. To be empathetic, we need to learn to 'read' other people by being active listeners and by observing others' body language and tone of voice. Please talk to your child about the importance of cooperating with others; perhaps you could play some games together to promote turn taking and fairness. Well done to the following children who have demonstrated their ability to understand and think of others first:



STARS OF THE WEEK



Reception	Isabella G: for showing empathy and kindness towards her friends
Year 1	Annabelle: for always thinking of others
Year 2	Pippa: for always smiling and making others happy
Year 3	Noah: for being a good friend and thinking of others
Year 4	Mea: for being kind and showing empathy
Year 5	Lucie: for always showing empathy and consideration for others
Year 6	Malak: for using empathy and being kind and helpful



School Games Santa Dash: Friday, 11th December

Schools across the country are coming together on Friday, 11th December to deliver a **Christmas Santa Dash!** The pupils and staff of Halebank will be taking part by running and walking circuits of the school grounds while also sharing a little festive cheer. As this School Games event coincides with Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, we thought it might be nice for the children to come into school in a Christmas jumper (if they have one), a Santa hat or any other Christmassy clothes that they'd like to wear (no uniform needed!).

Please don't feel you have to buy anything special for your child; the main thing is that everyone takes part in this fun event along with thousands of other children around the country. **Your child will need to be wearing trainers to take part in the Santa Dash.**

Please note, we will not be collecting any donations for Christmas Jumper Day in school but if you would like to support Save the Children yourselves, please have a look at the charity's website: www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day

Covid-19 Update

TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

Another week has passed and there continues to be some encouraging reports in the media regarding the development and approval of Covid-19 vaccines. At the current time though, Halton has been placed under Tier 2 restrictions, alongside all of the Liverpool City Region. The local restriction tier system was introduced on Wednesday and it includes the following rules in terms of social interaction:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble **in any indoor setting**, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’

Further information, including travel arrangements, amenities and services, can be found on the [government website](#).

In school, we continue to promote safe practice in terms of good hand and respiratory hygiene alongside social distancing measures. Staff have marked out zones around their classroom doors with hazard tape; please ensure that you do not step into these areas during pick ups and drop offs. Thank you.



READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1 Emelia	Class 2 Lyla	Class 3 Isabella	Class 4 Maddie
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'And the peace of
God...will guard your
hearts and minds in
Jesus'
Philippians 4.7 *

Christmas at Home: Week Two

Week Two's *Christmas at Home* resources are based on the theme of *peace*. There are some lovely activities for you to complete together with your child including making a 3D angel and baking gingerbreads. I shared photos that were emailed to me with the whole school in this morning's collective worship. I would love to hear from you if you complete any of this week's activities. Please send your images to me at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. I hope you enjoy spending some quality time with your children.

Christmas Cards and Presents

As you are aware from last week's newsletter, we have made the decision to leave Christmas cards this year. We ask that the children do not bring in cards from home and give them out to others. While this is a great shame, the staff will arrange for some card making activities in school so that each child can send and receive a card from someone within their bubble.

A number of parents have spoken to me this about buying and sending in gifts for the staff. As with the cards, we ask that this does not take place this year. While we



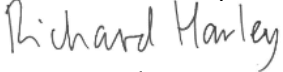
understand that children and parents like to do this, the staff know that you value and appreciate all their hard work in school. Now for the important bit.... please look out for a secret, brown envelope that is being sent home tonight (but don't tell anyone about it).

Christmas 'Performance'

The children are continuing to work on their short, virtual Christmas 'performance' for you to enjoy at home this year. This will be recorded and edited by Andrew Curphey who supports the school with both music and drama. We are hopeful that this will be ready for us all to enjoy during the final week of term. I will confirm the broadcast date and time in next week's newsletter. Other Christmas events will go ahead as planned and these include Christmas dinner on **15th December** and Christmas parties on **17th December**. Further details will be provided next week.

Have a wonderful weekend. Don't forget to email photos of your *Christmas at Home* activities!

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley

Headteacher