

# WHITLEY MEMORIAL C of E AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL



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**Acting Headteacher – Mrs Claire Gray**

**'Let your light shine' – Matthew 5:16**  
**Our Current Core Value: Compassion**



Dear Parents/Carers,

What wonderful news we have had this week about the Covid vaccination being ready to roll out across the nation. The work of scientists never ceases to amaze me. It will be so wonderful to be able to start to move forwards in our lives without the current worries, anxieties and stresses that we all have.

As you can imagine, this week Christmas has begun in earnest. Around the school I see Christmas activities galore going on, a busy time for our cleaning staff with the extra pressure of glitter everywhere. I have also seen some cheeky Elves on the Shelves playing tricks in the classrooms. I wonder how they got here?! (I did hear a whisper that the Whitley Friends knew about their arrival. Thank you.) Across the school, another activity that I have seen has been the decorating of wooden trees. These were donated by West Bedlington Town Council. I am sure that you will love them when they arrive home. Of course all our Christmas activities will be slightly different this year but we are trying our best to make this a special time for your children.

## Christmas Holidays

We will be finishing at **2pm** on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and returning to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. This is a non-uniform day.

## Christmas Parties/Treat Afternoons

Each class will be holding their Christmas 'Party' on a different day. The class teacher will be sending you more details about this. On that day you can send in some party snacks with your child. (Please put in a named carrier bag or their packed lunch box.) The snacks are only for your child to eat as we cannot have a buffet style sharing. Please **do not** send in any food that needs refrigeration as we do not have the facilities for this. Something small like a bag of crisps, a cake and some fruit would suffice as they will have just eaten their dinner an hour earlier. As we have children with allergies, please don't send any food with nuts in it. Of course the children can wear party clothes but please remember that they will need warm clothes, and sensible shoes, for playing out and to be warm enough in the cooler, ventilated classrooms.

## Virtual Pantomime

This year Northern Stage has filmed a production of The Emperor's New Clothes. They have very kindly offered this to schools to stream for free. The classes will therefore be organising their own day that the children will be watching this. If you would like to watch it at home, the cost is £15 for one household to watch as many times as you wish and tickets can be purchased at: <https://www.northernstage.co.uk/event/the-emperors-new-clothes>

## Christmas 'Jumper' Day

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, we will be having a non-uniform Christmas clothes day. Please do not feel that you have to go out and buy a jumper. Anything Christmassy will be fine. On this date, the fantastic staff at Bedlington Leading Link have organised a full day of virtual events for schools and our similarly fantastic PTA, Whitey Friends, have organised a small present for each of the children, which I believe are being delivered by Elves from Santa. It will be a fun day for all. This will also be our annual Christmas charity fund raising day. Please see below.

## Salvation Army

Kielder class came up with a brilliant idea to raise money for the Salvation Army. They were going to serenade the parents at home time with a few Christmas carols and ask for donations. Unfortunately, in Tier 3 we are now unable to do this live so they will be putting this on Facebook instead. As we are not having charity buckets this year, if anyone would like to make a donation, please bring this in on Christmas 'jumper' day.

## School Dinners

We are really sorry about having to chop and change the school dinners at the moment. This is due to staff absences. We are providing hot food whenever we possibly can. The last week the kitchen will be using up food supplies so there will be no menu on SchoolGrid to preorder.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Gray

