

# Ormesby Village Infant School

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Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

Dear Parents

Christmas is almost upon us, albeit a very strange one for us all this year! This letter contains some important information regarding our Christmas festivities in school and Norfolk's Winter Support package, so please read it carefully. Please note that dates for similar events at the infant and junior schools differ so keep this information carefully. I know teachers are enjoying the opportunity to speak to you about your children's progress in our virtual parents' consultations, so do make sure you arrange an appointment if you have not already done so.

## Tier 2

As you know, as of yesterday, Norfolk is now in Tier 2 – High Alert. The balance of risk has been judged that children are safe to remain in education and so schools remain open to all children. We do not need to change our Covid risk assessments and compliance code at this time. This is clearly stated in the latest schools' information alert, which was sent to schools on Tuesday by the local authority. We therefore ask that you continue to follow our existing Covid requests when dropping off/collecting children from school, keeping to allocated times and maintaining social distancing at all times. Please do not be late collecting your child at the end of the day. We have requested, as we are entitled to do, that you wear a face covering if you have an appointment in school, or if you come in to speak to office staff for any reason. Government guidance is clear that parents/carers should not socialise in any way on school premises, but enter and leave as quickly as possible. Children should not be playing anywhere on the school site before and after school. You should always make an appointment to speak to a member of staff and we will ensure this happens as soon as possible.

## Winter weather/temperature

We are required to ventilate classrooms at all times to reduce the transmission of Covid. We are following the guidance about doing this as much as possible when children are not in their classrooms, but inevitably rooms are sometimes colder for a while than we would wish. Please make sure your children are warmly dressed, particularly their legs! Some children, who have come to school in shorts or dresses/skirts with socks, have complained that they are cold. We are very happy for children to bring an extra jumper or cardigan in from home to wear over their school jumper to ensure they are as warm as possible. Please make sure these are named!

## Christmas Performances

The local authority has recommended that any Christmas performance takes place remotely and we shall be adhering to this guidance. As mentioned previously, the four classes will upload a Christmas 'offering' before we break up for the holiday. We are very disappointed that we cannot welcome you into the school as we would love to do, but any size of audience would increase the risk of transmission.

Also, we have been rigorous about keeping individual class bubbles separate as much as possible, and so have not been able to rehearse for a performance as we normally would.

## Christmas cards

Children may bring Christmas cards for each other to school but we ask that this year they only bring them to school for friends in their class bubbles. Cards need to be in school by Friday December 11th as they will be quarantined before being handed out during the last week of term.



### Christmas parties

These will take place for all classes on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>, the last day of term. Classes will hold their parties individually in their bubbles and children may come to school in their party clothes on those days. This last day of term will be a Christmas extravaganza, with children also enjoying the school Christmas lunch and a visit from Father Christmas – socially distanced, of course! We are asking, as we usually do, for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of Christmas presents and other treats - £3 per family. We understand that this is an expensive time of year for families and that Covid is having a terrible effect on some people's livelihoods, so we emphasise that the contribution is voluntary – we would be grateful to receive any amount that you can comfortably afford. The last part of this letter informs you of how to obtain extra help over the Christmas period if you need it. Our School fund has not been able to be replenished this year with our customary fundraising events, so any and every donation will be very welcome! Please send in money as soon as you can, in a named envelope. Many thanks!

### School Christmas lunch

You should have already received the information about the school Christmas lunch, which will take place on the last day of term, Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure you return your slip to ensure the kitchen can order food in good time.

### Christmas Jumper Day

We are taking part in this fundraising event on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>, which is the day of the appeal. If they wish children may come to school in a Christmas jumper. If you wish to donate to the appeal we ask that you do so online at [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)

### Norfolk Winter Support Offer

Norfolk County Council is aiming to support as many residents as possible over the winter period to access financial and other support if they are facing hardship. A poster has been emailed to all families with details on how to access this help. Help is available as follows:-

- If you are unsure if you can pay bills/keep warm/buy food, you can apply online for support at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/covidwintersupport) The school will help you fill in this form if you need support/internet access to do it. Please ask. Help on offer includes food boxes, support with baby essentials like nappies, formula etc., paypoint top ups for gas and electricity and a daily living allowance for household expenses and bills. This help covers two weeks over Christmas. Beyond this time there is additional help for broadband, household items like washing machines and fridges and additional support with food and other essentials if required.
- Free school meal vouchers will be issued, as previously, to all eligible families before we break up for the Christmas holiday. You will be emailed a code, which you can use to purchase a supermarket voucher worth £15 per child for the two weeks of the Christmas holiday and, later on for the Spring half term in February 2021. Although all children in Years R, 1 and 2 receive a free lunch under the Government's 'Universal Infant Free School Meal' scheme, families receiving certain Benefits can apply for the Pupil Premium Free School Meals, which also entitle them to receive these extra vouchers at this time. Please contact the school office if your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible to claim this type of free school meals.

Yours sincerely

*L. J. Bates*

Lucy Bates  
Headteacher