



# PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Another busy week!**

As we roll towards December, you can imagine that things in school continue to be incredibly busy. As well as continuing with our curriculum and building on children's learning, we have also started some Christmas linked activities. Even though many of our normal Christmas procedures have been scuppered by the restrictions in place, we are determined to make sure that the children still experience the joy of Christmas in schools. We will keep you up-to-date with anything that we are doing and will do our very best to include you in what we do.

## **COVID update**

I know that these have become more regular, but I feel it is important that you are aware of what is going on in school and to provide you with the most up to date information.

## **In school**

You will have seen from the ParentMail yesterday that we have reported a positive case in the kitchen this week. All advice and guidance was sought and we are very lucky that we have not had to close any bubbles in school at this time.

You will undoubtedly hear (probably through class WhatsApp groups) about children or parents who may be symptomatic or sent home ill. I wanted to confirm with you all that if a child has symptoms, there is no action for the school to take. The child will need to get a test and if the test comes back as positive then there is likely to be action for the school to take – this is why it is so important that you email me at [headteacher@palacewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@palacewood.kent.sch.uk) as soon as the result comes back. I will be

checking emails regularly, including evenings and weekends. The more notice I have, the quicker we can move to take the actions recommended to us by the DfE and PHE.

## **Outside of school – post Lockdown 2**

I imagine that you will have seen the news from yesterday that at the end of this Lockdown, Kent has been placed in Tier 3. I understand that this may cause unrest, especially as Kent is such a large county and in our particular area, the cases are not as significant as other areas of Kent. I am, however, imploring you to stick to the guidelines for Tier 3 to help keep the community safe as you have done throughout.

## **Christmas Support**

Another thing that has been in the news a lot recently, largely due to Marcus Rashford's campaigning, is supporting families over the Christmas period. We know that the pandemic has had a significant impact on many families. As a school, one way we can support is through the Free School Meals offer. If your child is Eligible for Free School Meals, school will provide your child with a meal every day, and the government have also agreed to provide meal vouchers over the Christmas period. We will be sending a ParentMail to all eligible families today asking for some additional information so that the vouchers can be allocated accurately. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please follow this link and complete the information – it doesn't take too long I promise, and the information remains confidential.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent>

## Christmas Dinner

Please remember that the date for orders of this year's Christmas Dinner is 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We apologise for having to make the date so early this year, but due to the additional restrictions and complexities, we need slightly longer to plan the lunch. Please also remember that if you are in Acorns, or your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, you will need to let us know that you want your child to have a dinner.

## Spelling League Table

This week, our top three classes are:

1<sup>st</sup> position - Lions

2<sup>nd</sup> position - Rhinos

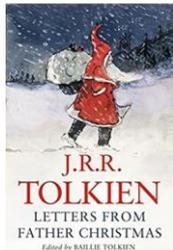
3<sup>rd</sup> position - Monkeys

(As of 27/11/20)



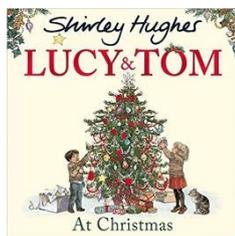
Well done to Lions who are top of the pops! Rhinos now fall into second place while Monkeys maintain third position. All great scores from you all. It would be great to see a new class in the top 3 next week. Come on, you can do it!

## Book Recommendations! ★



A classic by JRR Tolkien, who wrote letters to his children as Father Christmas while he was in the war. An amazing book for children in Key Stage 2.

'Lucy and Tom at Christmas' by Shirley Hughes. A classic picture book, which is sure to excite many children in their preparations for the festive season. Great for our EYFS and KS1 children.



## Drone spotted!

If you live near the school, please don't be alarmed if you see a drone over the school on Saturday. The governors are creating a promotional video as part of the recruitment package for the new Headteacher. They will be observing all social distancing guidance and wearing masks.

## And finally

It's the last Friday of November and we continue to battle against the challenges thrown our way. Although there are likely to be more challenges ahead over December, it's really important that we still try to keep our own 'self-care' high on the agenda. I try and share some wellbeing tips with staff every week. This week I shared something that I had read about self-care which I thought was really useful.

*Try to think of your self-care like a table being held up by four legs. If one of the legs wobbles, then the whole table becomes unstable. Try to think about the four legs of your self-care table and make sure that you give each one the time it needs to keep your table sturdy and strong!*

Have a great weekend

Mark Chatley

**Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> Jan & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 INSET days.

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Non Uniform Day
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch <i>(deadline to book 2/12)</i> Christmas Jumper Day
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to School

### Letters sent home (parentmails)

All	Class lists sent home for Christmas cards COVID-19 – 1 Isolated Case After School Club (in Acorns tonight) Microsoft Teams Heart of Kent Light up a Life Campaign
Panthers	Request
Zebras	Request
Crocodiles	Request
Zebras	Request
Yr5	Request
Yr6	RSE

## Superstar Corner

Keep your superstars coming in so that we can share your successes.