



Classteacher Golden Awards (December 11th)

Year 1: Emily
Year 2: Scarlet
Year 3: Sofia
Year 4: Abbie
Year 5: Harley
Year 6: Alex

Well done everyone!



2020 Christmas production

The final FINAL edit of the 2020 Christmas production was completed after the staff preview on Wednesday afternoon and you should have had an email sent to you yesterday regarding this. We hope that you have enjoyed watching it and that you will be able to go back and watch it again over the Christmas period! I must offer my sincere thanks to all involved in the enormous amount of work that went into the production: after our initial staff meeting to discuss the absolute basics, Mrs Whincup dreamt up the 'pass the parcel' theme on her drive home and then it all snowballed from there. It's been great to have that little bit of Christmas spirit in school and see the children enjoying themselves into the bargain!



Some words from our Head Boy/Girl and their Deputies

In my last Newsletter, I was able to finally announce the appointment of our Head Boy, Head Girl and their respective Deputies: Sam, Josh, Caitlin and Annabel. Earlier this week, I asked them to jot down a few sentences about what being voted to these positions meant to them:

Sam: "I am very proud to have been nominated Head Boy and I will work hard to help the school. I am looking forward to the challenge ahead."

Caitlin: "It means a lot to me to have been given this opportunity. Since a young age, I have admired the previous Head Girls and just thought, "Wow, that's something I really want to do." I just hope I can set a good example for next year."

Annabel: "Being picked for Deputy Head Girl made me feel rewarded for my good behaviour. I am proud to be in Levendale and promise to improve the experience of the other pupils."

Unfortunately Josh hasn't been able to give his thoughts so we'll hear from him in 2021!

Our amazing Y5s

COVID restrictions haven't stopped our enterprising Y5s and the indomitable Mrs Gullon from organising another hugely successful 'Caring at Christmas' series of events in and around school: they have been up to Ayresome Court residential home and sung (at an appropriate distance whilst outside) carols for the residents and also gave each resident personalised letters, cards and gifts; they have organised huge stockings rammmed with treats for local key workers who helped us all during the lockdown; the Y5s organised last week's Christmas Jumper Day in school; they have donated £2 vouchers to some local residents to be spent at the Mount Leven Convenience Store and have also sung carols at the end of Netherby Close and Staindale Close for those same residents.

As if that wasn't enough, they have organised four immense hampers which were donated to Little Sprouts who do so much amazing work in our area to support people in food poverty. We have since heard that those four hampers have been given to four families who are hugely grateful.

Our Y5s have made a significant impact on so many different people by virtue of the phenomenal work they have done this Christmas, supporting a number of people in challenging circumstances. I am immensely proud of what they have done and how selfless they have been - thank you to everyone who was able to support the Y5s work at this time of year. Well done Year 5 – you have done us proud!



A little Christmas Quiz (*can you get all ten?*)

- 1) Which monarch was crowned King at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066?
- 2) Which three gifts did the Wise Men bring for the baby Jesus?
- 3) In the Muppets' adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol', who played the part of Ebenezer Scrooge?
- 4) and which character did Kermit play?
- 5) In the Christmas Story, who called the census which brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem?
- 6) Which British monarch delivered the first live Christmas Day message?
- 7) and which famous literary figure wrote it?
- 8) In the film, 'Elf', what is the name of the elf played by Will Ferrell?
- 9) Complete the line from this Christmas carol: "Hither page and stand by me"
- 10) What is Santa's German name?



COVID update

I am in no doubt that you will be a little weary of reading this in Newsletters, but it does need emphasising for the return to school in January: **please do not send your children in to school if they display any of the three official symptoms of COVID**, even if you believe the symptoms are indicative of an unrelated ailment. The three symptoms are: an elevated temperature (Government define this as where the chest/back feel hot to the touch, although a temperature of 37.8°C or above remains a useful benchmark), a new persistent cough and/or a loss of taste/smell. A test should be sought at the earliest opportunity. **This also applies to any other member of the household if symptoms are evident: children should not be sent into school where a member of the household is symptomatic until a negative test result has been obtained for that household member.**

As we break up for Christmas, I still have an obligation to act as the 'track and trace' contact for Levendale and be in a position to notify Public Health where we may have a positive test within a bubble. To that end, I must request that any symptoms that develop in a child between Friday 18th December and Sunday 20th December are reported to me as soon as possible: that child must then have a COVID test and the result should also be reported to me as quickly as possible. Where a child has been symptomatic (and subsequently tests positive) within a 48-hour period of being in school, I will then have to notify Public Health, identify close contacts (which in a primary school of our size is the entire class) and then request that all members of that bubble self-isolate for an appropriate period of time.

To facilitate the reporting process, we have set up a dedicated email address that I will monitor regularly between the end of school on Friday 18th and the morning of Monday 21st. **If your child develops any of the symptoms of COVID as outlined above, please email me as soon as possible on covid@levendale.org.uk and arrange for the child to be tested. That test result should then be communicated to me at the earliest opportunity.** If a positive test within a bubble is confirmed, I will liaise with Stockton's Public Health team then contact all parents of children within that bubble to inform them that the children should isolate in line with Public Health instructions.

Hopefully we can get through the Christmas period without having to instruct anyone (staff, children and parents alike) to self-isolate at what is meant to be a celebratory time of year!

Dates for your diary

January

- 4 Start of Spring Term 1
- 21 Y5 Level 1 Bikeability
- 22 Y6 Level 1 Bikeability
- 26 Y6 Level 2 Bikeability

February

- 12 Break up for half-term
- 22 Start of Spring Term 2

March

- 26 Break up for Easter

April

- 12 Start of Summer Term 1

May

- Y2 test period across May
- 3 May Bank Holiday – school closed
- 10-13 Y6 SATs week
- 17-19 Y6 residential at Robinwood
- 28 Break up for half-term

June

- 7 Start of Summer Term
- 7-11 Y1 phonics screening check week
- 7-25 Y4 multiplication check period

July

- 16 Break up for summer



Thank you

To close this last Newsletter of 2020, I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the school community for the support they have offered across this extremely unusual year: my staff have been terrific, working in difficult circumstances during the lockdown in March-June and adapting to a very different set up in school; you, as parents, relatives and childminders, have been fantastic in your support of your children (coping well with home learning for many of you!) and in your support of the measures we have introduced to keep everyone safe; finally, the children have been absolute superstars – those who came in during Key Worker provision adapted so well to the situation and then, as more children have come back, everyone has settled so quickly to the new routines. Whilst there appears to be no immediate signs of normality returning, we can all hope for a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Merry Christmas to you all and we'll see you all in 2021! Take care of yourselves and each other.

R Beadnall
