



## HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### **COVID19 POSITIVE CASES**

There have been two confirmed cases of COVID19 this week. The Y6 bubble will now need to self-isolate for two weeks returning on Tuesday 8 December. Teachers will set work for pupils on Purple Mash starting today. A separate letter will follow with more details.

With this in mind, please can all parents/carers observe 2 metres social distancing when dropping off and collecting children and for your own safety and the safety of others – please wear a mask.

### **DRIVE WITH CARE!!**

Yet again we must remind parents to drive carefully and park considerately near the school. A few days ago there was another incident near the main gates when a reversing car almost ran over a child. Because some cars are parking on the pavement, children who walk to school with their parents are forced to walk on the road. Please do not park on the footpath and be extra vigilant when driving away from school.

### **REMOTE ACCESS LEARNING**

In the event of your child having to isolate for up to 2 weeks, it is important that he/she is able to continue with their education from home. Teachers will set Purple Mash work on line for all children to access but we are aware that some families do not have a laptop, computer or tablet to do so. The government will be providing schools with a limited number of laptops to distribute to the most deserving families. If you have no access to remote learning, please complete the survey which we will be sending out this week.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS WHILST ISOLATING**

The school can provide a packed lunch for children entitled to free school meals if they need to isolate. If you would like a packed lunch and you can arrange for a family member/friend to collect it for you, please let school know by telephone or email by 9:30 am each morning. We can arrange for the lunches to be collected from the main entrance.

This provision is only available to children whose parents are in receipt of benefits, e.g. universal credit. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, there is an application form available on our website which must be completed and emailed to school. We can then have your application verified. We would recommend that any parents/carers whose circumstances may have changed in recent months, apply because if successful, your child will qualify for any help offered by the government during school holidays.

### **REMINDER – CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

If your child currently brings a packed lunch but would like to order a school prepared roast dinner on 9 December, you must inform the office (if you have not already done so) by Friday 27 November.

### **BREAD AND BUTTER THING**

A food surplus redistribution charity that helps businesses reduce their environmental impact while providing affordable groceries for people on low incomes, is expanding into County Durham. The Bread & Butter Thing (TBBT) is supported by funding from the council and the first hub opened at the Eden Hill People Centre at Horden and Peterlee Rugby Club on 17 November.

TBBT works with food businesses to redistribute their surpluses, helping reduce wastage and increasing their positive impact in communities by providing a source of affordable food. The County Durham scheme will grow to take place every week in locations of greatest need.

For just £7.50, TBBT members' shopping bags are filled with a minimum of £35 worth of items made up of quality fresh food and store cupboard staples from supermarkets.

To find out more about the charity and its work visit the [The Bread and Butter Thing](#) website. People interested in using TBBT service need to register as members and should contact TBBT at [hello@breadandbutterthing.org](mailto:hello@breadandbutterthing.org)

### **SANTA'S WISH**

Parents who are struggling to buy gifts for their children this Christmas, can be referred by our Parent Support Advisor to a charity called Santa's Wish. If you would like more information, please email the school office at [o.howletch200@durhamlearning.net](mailto:o.howletch200@durhamlearning.net)

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS**

This year we will not be distributing Christmas cards from children to other children or staff due to Covid19. Many of you have been extremely supportive and generous to staff at Christmas time in the past and this has been always greatly appreciated. However, 2020 has been such a strange and difficult year that we don't want parents to feel obliged to send in gifts for staff especially if you are experiencing financial difficulties due to the current situation in the world. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in the past.