



## The Flying Bull Academy

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

There has been an excited buzz around school this week as we begin to get ready for Christmas. Displays are going up, Christmas trees are being decorated and elves are getting up to mischief!

There has also been lots to celebrate from the learning happening in our classes. Last week was our maths focus week, which began with an assembly lead by Mrs Foster and finished with a range of maths challenges on Thursday. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have been making great progress with their phonics, Year 5 performed their dance with flair and finesse, and Year 6 went to Sicily for a food day experience to inspire their writing.

On our INSET day, teachers and staff spent time reflecting on where we are now and planning for the next steps of our Journey to Excellence Plan. This plan sets out the priorities for the school for this academic year which are: getting children back on track and excelling with their learning after a disrupted two years, introducing a new phonics and early reading scheme, and the development and expansion of the Inclusion Centre.



### **Children In Need**

Our Children In Need donation total increased to £421.02, which is absolutely amazing! Thank you everyone for your contributions.

### **E-Safety**

We all know how important it is to keep children safe while they are online, both in school and at home. Please continue to monitor your child's use of social media. To support the safe use of technologies at home, we will be sending out regular support guides from 'National Online Safety' which is an excellent online platform that offers lots of resources for online safety. The first focuses on 'Age Appropriate Content'. You can also find this on our website under the E-Safety tab.

### **INSET day**

Our next INSET day will be on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. School will be closed to all pupils on this day while the teachers and support staff work on our new phonics and early reading scheme.

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Christmas is coming...

### Here's what's in store...

**3<sup>rd</sup> December** Today Mrs Palamidis lead a Christmas themed assembly and revealed all the wonderful Christmas displays in the hall. Look out for these on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Jumper Swap – this event has been postponed until next year as we didn't receive enough donations to make it work. So, if you get a new jumper this year, hang on to your old one ready to donate in 2022!

**8<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Dinner Day – come to school wearing your festive clothes or Christmas jumper (but make sure you are warm enough as we have increased ventilation due to Covid).

**10<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Jumper Day – wear your festive jumper in return for a £1 donation. All money raised will be donated to Save the Children UK.

Rock Steady Concert – This will be recorded and available on the website, Facebook and Twitter.

**13-15<sup>th</sup> December** Class based Christmas activities alongside regular lessons and learning with a Christmassy theme!

**13<sup>th</sup> December** Year 1 and Year 4 Christingle.

**16<sup>th</sup> December** Class Christmas Parties – come to school wearing your festive clothes or Christmas jumper. There will also be a visit from a very special person today!

**17<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas assembly. School closes at **1:15pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** and all children will need to walk home (if permission is given to the office or year group email address) or be collected at this time.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** Return to school.

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### Finally...

#### Covid 19

I am sure you are all aware of the changing messages coming from government in the last week – so a quick update on how we are managing here at The Flying Bull Academy. We do still continue to have positive Covid-19 cases here at school, but our numbers have remained below the 'outbreak' level.

We are asking that all parents, carers and siblings in Year 7 and above who come on to site to drop off or collect now **wear a face covering** (unless they are medically exempt). We also ask that you return to using the **year group email address for any questions or concerns** rather than talking with teachers at the door. We want to do all we can to protect you and the staff so that we can all enjoy our Christmas break.

Staffing has been a real issue for us this last week, as many members of staff have been unwell. However, I can't tell you how grateful and lucky we are to have such a dedicated team of staff here at Flying Bull. They really have gone above and beyond to make sure that all the children are well cared for and continue with their learning despite this.

However, a reminder that from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**, parents who wish to, can test their primary aged children twice a week using a **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test** (Sunday evening and Wednesday evening would be ideal) and then keep their children at home and book a PCR test if they have a positive result. This is different to the previous advice and is **new guidance**. You can order the tests here [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Please remember...

- Before school, check your child's temperature and for any signs of Covid symptoms including a cough, loss of smell or taste. If your child displays any symptoms, **stay home**, book a PCR **test** and let the **school office** know.
- If your child is not displaying symptoms, but has tested positive on a lateral flow device, **stay home**, book a PCR **test** and let the **school office** know.
- If your child displays any symptoms whilst at school we will ask you to collect your child and to follow the current advice from Public Health. Please make sure we have your up to date contact details.

Have a good weekend.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me on [head@fbacademy.co.uk](mailto:head@fbacademy.co.uk)

Mrs V. Kies

Acting Headteacher

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