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Headteacher: Miss S J Thomas



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Good afternoon everyone

We have 2 weeks together before Term finishes (at normal staggered times) on Friday 18th December. Children have worked extremely hard under unusual circumstances and we are incredibly proud of the progress they are making. We will make sure the last 2 weeks include some moments of reflection, celebration and Christmas fun, as everyone certainly deserves it!

Thanks must also go to all of you for being so patient, supportive and conscientious since September, in order for school to run as smoothly as possible. When children, parents and staff have to isolate, it puts pressure on us all, but it helps so much when our school family is understanding and co-operative. There may well be further disruption to endure, but we are all hopeful now that changes will come.

- The Education Secretary announced yesterday that Y2s will not need to take SATs tests in May next year, Year 4 classes will have an option to complete their Multiplication Check but it is not statutory and that two of the Y6 SATs papers have been removed (the Grammar Test booklet and the Spelling Test). This is welcome news for children who are in the midst of recovery and who need time to embed learning and catch up.

A Christmas like no other...

At Meadowside, Christmas is always an important time for the community. This year is no exception, if a little different!

- Active Advent has begun in school, with a physical task or challenge set every day . You will find the calendar on our website, so we would love you to have a go at the weekend challenges at home! Good luck (and no injuries please!)
- The FOM Advent Trail begins tomorrow. You will need to access the official map if you want to follow the trail, see all the decorated windows and perhaps enter the prize draw!
- Filming has begun for The Meadowside Christmas Story. The private link will be sent to you on Monday 14th December (fingers crossed!), so you can watch the show at home and send on to trusted family and friends.
- Christmas Cards can be shared in school with others in your child's bubble only. The last day for these is Wednesday 16th December.

- We won't be having a cooked Christmas Lunch this year, but plans are underway for festive packed lunch-details to follow.
- Friday 18th December is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save The Children. Your child can wear any festive and non-uniform outfit they choose.

Finally, please don't forget to contact school out of hours on:

[frontline@meadowsideprimary.co.uk](mailto:frontline@meadowsideprimary.co.uk)

Use this email to report Covid symptoms (temperature, new persistent cough or loss of taste/smell) or to inform us if you have to isolate or have test results back.

We need to be vigilant, cautious and help one another, so we can all enjoy a healthy happy Christmas!

Miss Thomas