

10th December 2021

Tavistock Primary and Nursery School Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very festive week! The Christmas dinner was a huge success, with Mr Holt admitting it was so delicious, he couldn't resist eating two dinners! Thank you to our wonderful and hard-working kitchen team for making such a lovely meal happen.

Christmas Jumper Day has raised £232 and the children have thoroughly enjoyed showing off their festive clothes. It has really gotten the whole school community into the festive spirit!

Last night was our HSA Wreath making workshop. A huge thank you goes to not only our attendees, but to Rhea and Julia for organising and delivering a really lovely evening. The wreaths look brilliant.

The annual Nativity was filmed this week and links to view should be with parents shortly. The children worked really hard and the results very much reflect their efforts!

With only week to go until the end of term, please ensure you continue to follow Covid safety guidelines detailed further in this letter. We all want to be sure to have a fantastic and well-deserved break over the festive period, ready to return healthy in the New Year.



Year 4 have had a busy Garden day this week and managed to make the most of it despite the rain. We spent the morning inside completing a maths treasure hunt and marbled some paper which created fantastic results! This paper will be used next week for an extra special activity. In the afternoon when it had dried up the children carried out a scavenger hunt and watched some messy science experiments! To top it off we warmed up with a hot chocolate in class before heading home.



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Dates for Your Diary

- > Tuesday 14th December Flu Spray Vaccinations
- > Friday 17th December Y2 Trip to Theatre Royal
- > December 17th Last day of autumn term
- > 5th January First day of Spring Term
- > Week commencing 28th March Y4 residential trip to Dartmoor
- > Week commencing 9th May Y5 residential trip to London
- > Week commencing 27th June Y6 residential trip to Porthpean
- > Friday July 22nd School Closed

Volunteers in School

To support our Covid risk assessment, we will not be able to welcome volunteers into school until the number of Covid cases in the community decreases but when that happens, we look forward to seeing everyone again.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

With Covid 19 cases on the rise nationally, please remember it is Government advice to continue to undertake a lateral flow tests regularly. Please inform the school and book a PCR test if you receive any positive results. If you have not yet had your vaccine, please consider booking in for it.

Let's all do our bit to get through this!

Food Bank

Oliver from Year 1 has been playing his part in helping the community. He has found items, paid for them and then donated them to the local food bank all by himself. We are very proud of such a compassionate gesture from Oliver. **Well done!**

This time of year can be tricky for some, so please be aware that there is a Community Fridge available to access in Tavistock Library and food bank at the Old United Reformed Church. The aim of this is to help those who might be struggling financially at this time of year and to reduce food waste.

Next time you are shopping, why not consider picking up an extra item or two to donate to the Foodbank?

A note from the Food bank:

Please note that the Tavistock Foodbank will not be open on 24th December. Instead it will be open on Wednesday 22nd December at the usual times of 10am to 2pm.



It will then be open again on Friday 31st December 10am—2pm.

All other weeks remain Friday from 10am—2pm.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Best Wishes, Wendy



High 5

High 5 have received funding from Devon County Council for families who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals to access a limited number of spaces over the Christmas holidays at their High 5 Camps at Mount Kelly Prep School. They are also able to offer free places to looked after children, children with education, health care plans, foster children and young carers.

The Christmas Cracker Camps are running from Monday 20th—Thursday 23rd December.

There is a limited number of funded spaces available with a hot lunch each day.

For more information, please contact Ben Knight (Camps Director) on 01752 749990, or use the following link to book. Please note, we are unable to take booking from in Tavistock Primary office.

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/High5SportsCamps?season=3083740&location=1205906>

Please follow this link to find other holiday activities as well as food providers.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/document/haf-providers-christmas-2021#south-and-west-devon>



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You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support our school every time you shop, by donating 0.5% of the cost of your purchase, at no extra cost to you.

AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

Simply open Amazon Smile and search for **Tavistock Community Primary Home School Association** or search for us by our registered charity number **1108467** to select our school as your chosen charity.

What is the donated money used for? To advance the education of pupils in the school in particular by: (1) developing effective relationships between staff, parents and others associated with the school; (2) engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.



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We're on Instagram!

Make sure you head over and follow us to stay up to date with news from the school.



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Please be aware of new Covid guidelines in place

Targeted measures to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 Omicron variant took effect from 4.00am on Tuesday 30 November 2021.

They are being introduced by the government as a precaution while more information is gathered and assessed on how easily this new variant spreads and any possible effect on vaccines.

The measures are temporary and precautionary, and will be reviewed in three weeks:

- Face coverings are once again compulsory in shops and settings such as banks, post offices and hairdressers, as well as on public transport in England, unless an individual is exempt.
- All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of their age or vaccination status. They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.
- Anyone entering the UK must take a PCR test within 48 hours of arrival and self-isolate until they receive a negative result. The PCR tests are available online from private providers.
- Secondary schools pupils in England are being strongly advised to wear face coverings in communal areas. Due to high COVID-19 case rates in the south west, secondary schools across the region have been following this guidance since half term. The guidance applies to staff and visitors at all schools and childcare settings

Guidance for schools:

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated their guidance for schools and childcare settings to reflect new measures announced by the Prime Minister in response to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the new Omicron variant while the government gathers more information. The measures include:

- Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and students in year seven and above, unless they are exempt.
- Pupils in year seven or above should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.
- All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

Primary age school children should not wear a mask in school. If they wear it to walk to school it should go home with parents and not be brought into school.



The HSA Wreath Making workshop was a HUGE success! We have learnt a fantastic new skill that can be used year after year - and our front doors look great!



A MASSIVE thank you to both Rhea and Julia for all of your hard work planning, organising and delivering the workshop. A mammoth amount of work goes on behind the scenes.

Thank you to those who attended the session and helped with raising funds for our school.



The HSA is open for all parents to join. If you are interested in joining contact the school for more information.

