

3rd December 2021

# Tavistock Primary and Nursery School Newsletter



**Tavistock**  
Primary & Nursery School

*Excellence for all*

www.tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk | 01822 616044  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have seen a rise in Covid cases across almost all year groups this week. The most important thing, at this point in the term, is that you all have a happy Christmas, with as few children and adults unwell as possible. To support this, we have cancelled the in-person audience for the nativity and will be posting a video of the performance for families to watch at home. Details of this will be sent out as soon as it is available. Last night we made the decision to change our end of term Christmas assembly arrangements. We will not be assembling in the church, but instead will have a Christmas assembly on our school playground. Parents of children receiving cups will be invited to attend, but the assembly is not open to any other parents.

Please keep testing yourselves regularly, children under 11 do not need to be tested unless they have symptoms or a member of their household has tested positive. Just in case you have missed the news this week, if you are a close contact of someone with a confirmed or suspected case of the Omicron Covid variant, you must isolate for 10 days even if you have had both vaccines and/or are under 18 years and 6 months old.

Government guidance for mask wearing is for children in year 7 and above. Masks are not permitted for children in our school, as they are too young to use them safely and effectively. Please see our risk assessment (available on our website) for further details.

December is here - 22 sleeps until Santa's delivery!

**Laura Handel**  
Headteacher



**Don't forget the school raffle!**  
The draw is on Monday 13th December and there are some fantastic prizes to be won! The top prize up for grabs is Pantomime tickets, and other exciting prizes include days out at Trethorne and the Donkey Sanctuary and a professional photo shoot!



**Christmas Jumper Day is on 10th December. Please bring in £1 on this day.**

If you have a Christmas jumper at home that doesn't fit your child anymore, please consider donating it to the school. Thank you!



## Christmas Dinner!

The all important Christmas dinner will be served to children on **Thursday 9th December**.

The usual Thursday menu option will be served on Wednesday for this week.

## Dates for Your Diary

- > **Tuesday 7th December Year 4 Garden Day**
- > **Tuesday 7th December and Wednesday 8th December Nativity performance (virtual)**
- > **Thursday 9th December Christmas Dinner**
- > **December 10th Christmas Jumper Day**
- > **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**

## Tavistock Community Fridge

This is a sustainable food project run by volunteers; to stop edible food being thrown out by local businesses and redirecting it to be consumed by the local community, to reduce food insecurity, to encourage conversation and education around food wastage. They also aim to provide community connection through meaningful volunteering opportunities.



Some information on food wastage:

- Nearly a quarter of the food bought by UK households is thrown away. In terms of waste that is around 7 million tonnes to be disposed of.
- A further 1 million tonnes is lost by food businesses.
- The cost to the UK economy £13 billion a year.
- The food industry comes with a very big carbon footprint, 19 million tonnes of greenhouse gasses annually.
- Dealing with this waste effectively would be equivalent to taking 1 in 4 cars off the road.

There is a community fridge located in Tavistock Library which is accessible to all local residents. More information can be found through their website. <https://www.tavyfridge.org/>

Bag2School is a free fundraising scheme for anybody wanting to raise funds using a resource everyone has got in their wardrobe...**unwanted clothes!** They operate throughout the UK; collecting and selling your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. All of this is to benefit Circular Economy.

**B2S has paid over £36 Million to schools and other organisations SO FAR!**

**Our school Bag2School collection on Wed 8th December.**



It is almost December so let's "Step into Christmas" with our new Musician of the Month, Elton John! (Sorry)

Elton John is a classically trained pianist with a love for Pop and Rock'n'roll styles. He began learning the piano at just three years old. He composed the music for the Disney film, The Lion King, and co-wrote the music for the international smash hit stage production "Billy Elliot the Musical".

The children may know of him due to his recent collaboration with Dua Lipa, "Cold Heart". The children will learn about and listen to Elton's music throughout the month of December.



## Calling all Wreath Makers!

We hope you are looking forward to our HSA's Wreath Making Workshop as much as we are! Please could all attendees come with a pair of secateurs, or strong scissors.

We want to ensure all attendees remain safe, so we strongly encourage all to wear a face covering unless medically exempt.

We have a very small number of spaces remaining; don't miss out! ----->

## Reading Volunteers

We are welcoming volunteers back into school now that some Covid restrictions have been eased. Volunteers make a real difference to children in our school.

If you would like to volunteer, an application form can be found on our website.



TREAT YOUR DOOR THIS YEAR for only **£20**



Wesnesday 8th December | Tavistock Primary and Nursery School  
6pm-8pm | Limited spaces | Book with school office  
£10 deposit required | Remaining £10 to pay upon arrival

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Proceeds go to  
TAVISTOCK PRIMARY AND NURSERY HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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Refreshments included | Mulled Wine | Tea/Coffee | Mince Pie  
Telephone: (01822) 616044 | [admin@tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tavistock-pri.devon.sch.uk)

**amazon**smile

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](https://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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Primary and Nursery school for 2-11 year olds

Extended hours provision - open from 8.00am-6.00pm

Rich and varied experiences through excellent facilities inside and out.

We're on Instagram!

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



**@tavistockprimary**

## **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.**

