



**St Ives Primary School,**  
Sandy Lane,  
St Ives,  
Ringwood,  
Hants  
BH24 2LE

Tel: 01425 475478  
Email: [office@stivesprimary.com](mailto:office@stivesprimary.com)  
Web: [www.stivesprimary.com](http://www.stivesprimary.com)

Company number 9809895  
Headteacher: Mrs L Crossley

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**Newsletter 15 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



Dear Parent/s,

Wow, what a week in the life of St Ives Primary School! Firstly I would like to say as the headteacher how proud I am of all the children for taking part in some spectacular Christmas productions. The KS2 children far surpassed our expectations of them in 'Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoddies' panto at the Merryfield Theatre, Verwood Hub, on Monday. All the children really were quite spectacular with incredible talent on show and what an experience for our young people to have, performing in a professional theatre, a memory they will never forget! KS1 were amazing and our very youngest children deserve the biggest cheer, Nursery got up on stage, sang, danced and smiled through their song! It was lovely to see such joy, fun and happiness amongst our children, something I am sure you would all agree all our children deserve and need for their positive and emotional wellbeing.

As I look back over the term, I cannot believe what we have achieved in such a short space of time! The highlights have been:

- New Reception and Nursery children starting
- Parent consultations
- A wealth of sporting & music achievements
- Happy and healthy children
- Children's Christmas Performances – what super performances and such talent! I hope you all enjoyed these!
- Children's progress and learning – every child has moved forward in their learning

I know at this time of the year there is pressure to create a perfect 'magical' Christmas. I know that as parents you want to give your children the magic of Christmas and ensure he brings the best presents and sometimes that means a bit (or a lot in some cases!) of stress for you. As a headteacher I want to share something with you:

When your child/children arrives back to school in January they tell us all about the Christmas holidays. They tell us about the days when the whole family stayed indoors and watched TV or went for a walk in the freezing cold. They tell us about being with Grandparents and then being excited when you come back from work. They tell us about how you let them snuggle in bed, how you played cards and took them swimming one day and forgot their towel! They tell us about New Year's Eve and how they stayed up until midnight, how they loved staying in their PJ's some days and about a trip out another day. They mention their gifts, but for them Christmas is you and your love, time and routines and feeling safe. Time with you is their favourite present. Wishing you a merry Christmas!

## WOW Days for the Spring term – some pre-warning for costumes!

- YR - Our theme after Christmas is Amazing Africa. For our WOW day we will be dressing as African animals
- Y1 - Our theme is Paws, Claws and Whiskers, the children can dress as an animal of their choice
- Y2 - Our theme is 'What's your Superpower?' Information on costumes is on SeeSaw as Home Learning
- Y3 - Our theme in January will be Heroes and Villians, Please come dressed as a hero or villain, they can be fictional or real, Florence Nightingale, Robin Hood, Batman or Darth Vader etc
- Y4 - Our theme next term is I'm in the rainforest Get Me Out of Here! Can the children dress as an explorer or a member of a native tribe and in trainers please.
- Y5 - 'May the force be with you! Is our theme in January, can the children please dress as scientists or Star Wars themed and in trainers please
- Y6 - In January our theme is Darwin's Delights, there is more information for the children on SeeSaw

## PE Days

For the new Spring Term there will be a change to PE Days. Please note the **NEW PE Days**:

- YR – Tuesday & Friday
- Y1 – Thursday & Friday
- Y2 – Tuesday & Friday
- Y3 – Tuesday & Friday
- Y4 – Wednesday & Friday
- Y5 – Monday & Friday
- Y6 – Monday & Friday

## Internet Safety

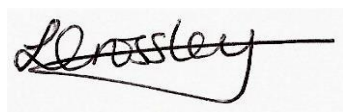
This week's guide includes ideas for how adults can spend time online with their child this holiday – without needing to take devices out of young hands first. We hope the guide comes in handy.

## Dates for Diary

- January
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Back to school

On behalf of Governors and Staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Crossley  
Headteacher



When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to

# MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

## 1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

## 2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

## 3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

## 4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

## 5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Smuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

## 6 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

## 7 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

## 8 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too: get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

## 9 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

## 10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday