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Tuesday, 7th November 2023

Countdown to Christmas at Green Ridge – December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



We are aware that as the festive season draws ever nearer, there are many events and activities taking place within school which need to be clearly communicated at this busy time of year. We hope that this letter should give you the information you need so that you know what is happening over the coming weeks in the lead up to the end of term. Please note that as our school grows, there has been some slight changes this year.

Year Two Christmas Performance of "The Twinkl Nativity"



Due to the increased number of children and classes as we grow bigger, it is not always feasible to have all children taking part in a Christmas production; as a result, we are ensuring that each year group gets an opportunity to perform, such as leading our Harvest or Spring assemblies. Key Stage Two pupils will be leading assemblies for parents/carers across the spring and summer terms.

This year, children in Year Two will be leading the Christmas production, where they will take the lead with narration and songs for two performances as follows:

Tuesday, 12th December at 2.15pm and Wednesday, 13th December at 9.15am

The children will be working hard to ensure they learn their songs, actions and lines in readiness for their performances. We believe that performances such as these provide a great opportunity to develop and foster the children's speaking, listening and confidence in performing and so are an important part of our whole-school curriculum and enrichment. For this reason, we ask that wherever possible younger siblings are **not** brought to the performances unless no other childcare can be arranged and that if they do attend and they become restless, they are taken out of the hall, so they do not disturb the children's performance.



Your child will be performing in **both** performances, so you can choose which time is most convenient for you to attend. To manage space in the hall, a maximum of **two** tickets can be ordered per family for each performance. Tickets must be booked by following this [link](#) by 3.30pm on **Wednesday, 30th November**. Tickets will be confirmed via email on a first-come-first-served basis for each. The school may not always be able to accommodate your preferred date/time if there is insufficient seating capacity. Please note that tickets are free of charge, but we will be asking for voluntary donations at each of the events to go towards school resources.

Parents/carers will need to enter via the external hall door, in front of the visitor drop-off bays at the front of the school. Doors will open 20 minutes before each performance, where the PTA will be providing refreshments at the back of the hall before the production starts. Each performance should take around 45-60 minutes.

Early Years Christmas Singalong

Children in Reception and Little Acorns will be having a Christmas sing-along afternoon on **Monday, 18th December at 2.15pm** where all children will be singing some festive songs. Parents/carers are welcome to attend and join in as are children who do not usually attend nursery at this time. There is no need to book for this; simply turn up on the afternoon and enter via the external hall door, in front of the visitor drop-off bays at the front of the school.

Christmas Post Box



Our very own Green Ridge Post Box will be back in our main corridor from **Monday, 4th December** so that the children have the opportunity to 'post' any Christmas cards that they may want to send to each other (which is also a great opportunity to practise their writing skills!). It is far easier for the children to put them in our post box and then we will have our elves working to help sort them out into classes and arrange delivery each day.

Please remember to name each card with the child's name and class they are in to ensure successful delivery!

If you would like a copy of your child's class list, please contact Mrs. Upfold in the school office via email. Please note that the lists will only contain the first names of the children whom we have permission to share this information for due to data protection regulations.

Christmas Craft Week – Week commencing Monday, 4th December

As has become tradition, each of the classes across the school will be taking part in a Christmas craft/art activity where they will be making a personal gift/decoration which we will then be selling to parents/carers at the PTA Festive Fun event. Each decoration will be personal to your child; they will have made and designed it themselves and will be a lovely keepsake. We would really appreciate it if you could purchase your child's decoration, and these will be sold for £3.50 at the PTA Festive Fun event (further information regarding the event can be found below).

PTA Festive Fun Event – Monday, 18th December

The PTA are now planning their Festive Fun Event for all parents/carers, family members and children to enjoy! It will take place at the end of the day on **Monday, 18th December**. There will be refreshments, raffles, games and more! The PTA committee will be communicating further with you about this event.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday, 15th December



We are encouraging the children to dress festively and wear their Christmas jumpers or other appropriate festive or 'wintery' tops on **Friday, 15th December** for Christmas Jumper Day (Santa/elf hats and antlers are also welcome!). Green Ridge will be taking part in aid of the Save the Children charity. Children will still need to come in wearing the rest of their school uniform but can supplement their school jumper or cardigan as appropriate. For this day, children do **not** have to wear their shirt, blouse or tie. We kindly ask for a donation of **£1.00** on this day to go to the Save the Children charity.

Christmas Lunch – Friday, 15th December

Christmas lunch will be available for children in place of the daily lunch options on this day. There will be a meat option of **Sliced Turkey Breast with Chipolata Sausage, Sage and Onion Stuffing and Gravy** or a vegetarian option of **Quorn Fillet, Veggie Sausage, Sage and Onion Stuffing and Gravy** (please note that there will **not** be a jacket potato or chilled option on this day as an alternative). The lunch will be served by staff and all children will come together to have this

special lunch together. For those children bringing a packed lunch, you may wish to send your child in with a festive treat for this special lunch. A separate letter will be sent with further information.

Christmas Panto 'Cinderella' – Tuesday, 19th December

We are keen to ensure that the children experience at least one 'live' theatre production each year and one of the ways we want to provide this is by getting a theatre company in to perform a pantomime for the children at Christmas. Children will be watching 'Cinderella' on the last day of term. For those children in Little Ridges, all children are welcome to attend if it is not your child's normal session to attend but a parent/carer will need to remain with them.

For our youngest children, please be prepared to step out of the performance if your child finds it hard to sit quietly for a long period of time. Early Years and KS1 will be watching the morning performance, starting at 9.30am, whilst KS2 watch the afternoon performance.

End of Term – Tuesday, 19th December

School finishes at the normal time on Tuesday, 19th December.

We will of course update you with any further additions to the published dates and times above but hope that these will be useful over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher