

# Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Newsletter Term 2

2020 Christmas is coming!

Dear Families

I want to express a heart-warming Hello to you all.

Your resilience and kindness continues to astonish me as we move on through this time of uncertainty and lockdown.



Please now hear the Three THANK YOUS!

1. **Thank you** to you all for wearing the face coverings and keeping your distance. You have all cooperated with genuine good will. 
2. **Thank you** to everyone for continuing to send your children into school, and to those few who for good reason are unable to, please know that we miss your children and you and we look forward to the days that we can all be working together at school. We have handed out a celebration award for superb attendance. Many children have received a certificate to congratulate you and them for 100% attendance during term 1. 
3. **Thank you** to those parents who have contacted the school immediately and taken such quick action when a member of your family has had a positive test. Your vigilance and quick responses are probably the reason we have not needed to close any further bubbles and I am most grateful. Please remember that you and your family need to self-isolate once you have a confirmed case of Covid 19. This minimises the risk of spreading the virus and helps us keep the school open. 



The wintery weather seems to be creeping up on us so please make sure that all children come to school wearing a coat. Don't forget that we are encouraging our pupils to bring a pair of slippers to school for comfort warmth and to keep the mud off the carpet after play times.

Mr Greenhalgh our music teacher is busy rehearsing – socially distanced, some Christmas songs with every class. Our hopes and aims are that we will record a Nativity Service that the Year 2 pupils will lead. St Georges' Church are kindly opening their doors for this class to perform the nativity play, where we will make a recording for parents to watch.

It is important that we have a signed consent form for every child who is taking part in the recorded version. The children can also perform the play and be streamed out live as a second performance for pupils to enjoy at school and for everyone to join in.

## Keeping everyone safe and well. Allergies update.

Unfortunately, we have a member of the school community who has a severe allergy towards cranberries and to blueberries. I am asking everyone not to send these particular fruits into school as it will cause a chronic health reaction.



Other known allergies that we are already aware of are those towards, latex and dairy products. Some of these can be managed through non-consumption or contact and we don't need to completely ban them from the school premises.

Please let us know immediately if we should need to set up a health care plan for any allergies that your child has and raise awareness for all our school community. In order to get an accurate care plan it is essential that we receive information from a medical consultant. Every child is different. Please send in the evidence. You may receive a call from Mrs Knight who is currently checking that all our information is up to date. Thank you.



I am also very excited to announce that we have been kindly invited by St George's church to collaborate with them and take part in their annual Christingle Service. This will be streamed out live on Christmas Eve. St Georges' Church have sent the following message:-

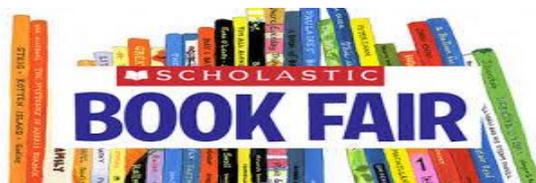
*Until now, we usually hold a Christingle at 3pm and 5pm on Christmas Eve. They are always very popular and filled with local families and children, where they get to enjoy their time together and hear the real meaning of Christmas.*

*For obvious reasons we will not be holding it in the church or meeting all together, instead this year we will be sending out a livestream that everyone can watch and enjoy from the comfort and safety of their own homes.*

*The Live stream will be sent out on YouTube at 4pm on the 24th of December and usually our Christingle would be full of children singing, telling, and acting to show the Christmas story, that's where your help is needed.*

*We still would love to include the local children and thought it would be great if we could get some schools to record some pupils, a class or a small group, singing along to the song 'Tonight there is a star'. The song is a lovely, uplifting piece which shares the sentiments of love, joy and hope and encourages these sentiments to resonate with us all.*

Mr Knight will be getting the Christmas decorations out of storage and I am grateful to the PTFA members who are coming in to school to help put them up. The PTFA are also planning a number of Christmas events including a Christmas Raffle. We are also planning a visit from some on line Christmas Elves to every class. A good opportunity to buy some fabulous Christmas presents – read on.



I am pleased to announce that we are still holding our annual Scholastic Book Fair. It will be here for children to browse next week beginning **23<sup>rd</sup> November**.



It will take on a new format this year in order to keep us all safe.

There will be an electronic version for you to book on line as well as to view the books. However, we will still have the good old bookcases in school for people to browse through and see in real life.

Please look out for Mrs Bridgeland's letter that will tell you more about our Scholastic Book.



### A moment for reflection

This week the children are thinking and raising their awareness to the national anti-Bullying Week

Today they thought about these issues from a Christian perspective and used our school Christian values to help them reflect.

**"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".**

- I wonder what these words mean for us at school today?
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- How do you want to be treated in the classroom, in the cloakrooms, on the playground, whilst eating your meal?

Given the chaos, distrust and darkness we witness in the world around us, it is often difficult for each of us to know what we can do to bring hope, healing and positive change. Will there ever be peace on earth? How can one person make a difference? While these questions can be overwhelming, the truth is that each one of us can and does have an effect on the world around us.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." We are each one of us, the light that can drive out darkness.

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Kind regards,

Keep smiling and keep warm

Justine Brown

Head Teacher

