

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear all,

The children have had such a lovely week. They had Father Christmas visit on Tuesday and he brought them all early Christmas presents. Don't worry if your child was poorly on Tuesday we have saved their present! The children then had a festive lunch with crackers. So there was lots of fun telling silly jokes and wearing paper crowns for the rest of the day!

All week the children have been celebrating Christmas, making salt dough decorations, acting out the story, painting Christmas pictures etc. Christmas music can be heard as you walk through the school.

Some of our children delivered Christmas cards and pictures to Exmouth Hospital and MIU and Exmouth House. We also received a thank you letter from Exeter Hospital saying the patients had our cards in the wards and they were being enjoyed by all.

Year 1 and 2 still did their nativity in a day! We have videoed it but obviously only those children with consent for Facebook or the Website will be shared.

Today has been lovely. The children and staff have had such a lot of fun together. It has really made everyone smile seeing all the fantastic outfits, coloured hair and nail varnish that has been worn. Also being able to eat chocolate together at break time has been a real treat for staff and children!

Thank you so much to everyone who has brought us in chocolates and other presents – we are very grateful. They are all very much appreciated.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all the school staff and community.

It has been a very challenging year for everyone.

Many thanks to the charities and community who have supported us in being able to deliver hampers, vouchers and presents to some of our vulnerable families. It really does make a difference to people's lives.

Thank you to the children. They make us proud every day, demonstrating great values and approaching their learning with enthusiasm and determination.

I know how anxious at times this year has been for parents and I appreciate all your support whether that be through wearing a mask, distancing or just a friendly smile. It all makes a difference.

Thank you to all our staff team. I am extremely proud of the way we have managed to adapt so quickly to everything that has been thrown at schools. Separate bubbles, visors and sanitiser are now just part of everyday school life. It now seems odd to not have a mask on. I can't imagine being able to just walk into the staff room or down the corridor without ensuring we are social distanced.

Remote learning and zoom meetings which were never used before are now standard. All of this has been managed whilst juggling staff shortages, numbers of children suddenly being off for 14 days at a time and the ever present concern of feeling like you're just waiting for a positive test to be rung in.

Throughout all of this staff have remained calm, positive and as per usual put the children first. They have continued to hold the children's hands, sit next to them, deliver a high quality education and care for them whilst not being able to see their own extended families because of the risk working in a school brings.

We have been so fortunate so far. I worry about what January may bring but I know with the staff and community we have we will pull together and get through it.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It will be different and we may not all be with all the ones we love but I hope you can all enjoy the time with your children.

Stay safe

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

**Diary dates:****Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – Children return to school. Staggered start times still apply.**Headteacher's Award:** Cedar – Adam, Harry He**Bronze Awards:** Oak – Noah, Issy, Theo, Lily, Poppy B, Alfie, Louie W, Adam, Liam, Joseph, Samuel, William, Rowan – Poppy N, Sycamore – Riley, Quinn, Barney, Ethan, Quinlan, Leo, Lusi, Hollie, Cedar – Jacob, Maple – Bella, Elizabeth, Charlie, Phoebe, Justas, Grace, Beech - George**Stars of the Term:** Oak – Poppy B, William, Rowan – Evie, Rory, Sycamore – Brooke, Jonah, Cedar – Jacob, Amelie, Maple – Matilda, Justas, Beech – Isabella, Max