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Newsletter 4th December 2020

****St Ives Infant and Nursery School

<https://www.st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk/web>

**Key Dates**

**INSET DAYS 2020 - 2021**

* February 8th 2021
* April 19th 2021
* July 23rd 2021

Christmas Holidays 21st December to 1st January 2021

Please refer to our school website and Facebook page for full term dates and general updates.

Our main ways of communicating are our Facebook page, website and regular newsletters.

**December Dates**

* Christmas Jumper Day **11th Dec** (donations for Save the Children)
* Final Day for Christmas Cards **11th Dec**
* Christmas Lunch **16th Dec**

Please let us know no later than Monday 14th Dec if your child would like a lunch (letter to follow)

**Achievers Assembly**

Well done to all of our achievers. We are all very proud of you!

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| **Class** | **Achiever** |
| **Pipit** | Aurelia |
| **Puffin** |  |
| **Chough** |  |
| **Heron** | Aliyah |
| **Kittiwake** | Gabe |
| **Cormorant** | Vincente |
| **Sandpiper** | Oscar |

**COVID Updates**

Thank you for your ongoing support in working to maintain adequate space and supporting the measures we have put in place.

I understand the opening of the top gate may have been delayed on one occasion this week. Please accept my apologies for that, unfortunately events in school can impact on our limited staffing.

There are a few changes this week to be aware of;

* The gates will not be locked in-between the end of day pick ups which seem to be busier than the mornings. This is to aid any possible congestion outside the top gate.
* Mornings work much more fluidly with the lock up as there are fewer people waiting.
* With effect from today, we will leave the bottom gate open until 9.20am to allow an additional entrance/exit onto the playground for our Year 1 and 2 children.

**This is a temporary arrangement whilst our Reception Bubble is isolating.**

We are reflecting constantly and liaising with our Junior School colleagues and we thank you for your continuing flexibility and support.

If you have any queries regarding symptoms or the procedure if your child shows symptoms, please refer to the guidance on our website and Facebook page.

**Attendance**

Please ensure your child is attending on time. Any one arriving after the school day has started will need to enter via the school office even if the playground is still open.

**Staffing**

**Miss Saunders** has been offered an exciting opportunity to co-manage the development of an evolving forest pre-school. She handed in her notice in October which means she will sadly leave us at the end of December.

Miss Saunders has worked as a Reception teacher for 10 years here at SIIS and has loved working with all the children and families during that time. She asked me to say that the children have brought her joy each and every day. She would like to wish lots of luck for the future to all of our children.

Unfortunately, Miss Saunders will continue to be absent for the rest of this term which means we will not get a chance to say goodbye to her in person. However, I am sure everyone will echo our thanks to her for all her dedication to our school, and join me in wishing her the very best of luck in her new exciting role. I am sure she will keep us updated.

The children of Puffin class have been absolutely fantastic during the changes, I cannot praise them enough. They are a very settled and hardworking class usually and, once in school, there has been no difference in their presentation this half term.

I will communicate the teacher who will be working in Puffin next year as soon as we have made a successful appointment.

**Miss Singh** is completing her Jury Service today so will be back in Chough class next week.

The support of Mr Donnithorny and Miss Marsh during the Reception absences has been very much appreciated. They established some lovely relationships with the children in such a short time and were a huge asset to us.

I would also like to thank the support staff who have been a constant for the children and have created such a positive, enjoyable environment at what could have been a disruptive time. I am aware there have been a few anxieties coming into school but I can reassure you all the children have been so adaptable and have accessed school as they would normally which has been lovely to see.

**Christmas**

**Cards**

In order to support card distribution this year we have a special ‘COVID safe’ plan. The plan is for all cards to be in school on a specified date. We will then put them into quarantine for several days before distributing them in a safe way.

To ensure no child is disappointed please note the date below –

All cards to be in school **no later than 11th December**.

**FOSIIS - Bags2School**

Thank you for your donations for the Bags 2Schools event. We received a huge amount of bags, obviously lots of sorting going on before Christmas. Today was the last day.

We will update you as soon as we are away of the total raised.

**Community**

An Invitation from Fore Street Methodist Church St Ives ....

for children and parents to join a Christingle Service via Zoom on Sunday 6th December at 4 pm. This will be led by Mary Judkins who is 'Messy Church Co-ordinator for Cornwall'.   If you would like to make a 'Christingle' with your child while 'online', please have the following items ready: **Red tape** *to go round***an** **orange; 4 cocktail sticks, 4 soft sweets, small candle.**

For further details please contact **Mr William Thomas Tel: 01736 799762**

**Cornwall Christmas boxes**

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**This is our final push as the last day is Friday 11th Dec.** Please support us if you can. Likewise, if you or anyone else would find hamper useful then please contact me directly.All inquiries are dealt with discretely by myself.

We are happy to receive donations of full hampers or single items.

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**Thank you**

**Parent Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. Been a governor is a commitment in terms of your time but hopefully our current governors will agree, is a very worthwhile role which brings many rewards.

Our Governors effectively oversee school. They work alongside myself and the leadership team to ensure the school is running effectively, and ensure we are accountable to different stakeholders including parents.

A parent’s voice is always an asset to any governing body and adds to the range of viewpoints of our governors.

Full details of the process are attached together with timescales.

I would like to thank Helen Carver and Carl Burdett, whose roles recently came to an end, for their dedication to our school over many years.

**Final note…**

It has been another lovely week at school with the excitment of the Christmas tree going up on Monday, Buddy’s December countdown and our Tree advent.

It was of course sad that we had the need to isolate our Reception bubble this week, but was probably inevitable as there are more cases in our local community. It was something we had planned for and I hope you found the communication, organisation of work and Free School meal packs effective.

Thank you

Mrs Farrar 