



# The William Amory Primary School & Nursery

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## NEWSLETTER

### 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 The Next Fortnight for School and Nursery

8<sup>th</sup> Dec KSI Christmas Dinner

9<sup>th</sup>

Y3 & 4 Christmas Dinner

10<sup>th</sup> Y5 & 6 Christmas Dinner

Christmas card day

11<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Jumper day

### Looking Forward (See also Christmas)

#### Assembly for those self-isolating.

If your children are missing school because they are having to self-isolate then you are welcome to attend our assemblies using the following Zoom links. Please keep your microphones turned off if you do join us.

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> @ 09.15 – Story Assembly

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81945153127?pwd=YmhvU2Q0aDBVVGZFN1UvVDFlUmpBdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 4515 3127

Passcode: dr8fBH

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> @ 09.15 – Merit Assembly

School only this week.

### Class Dojo – Reasonable Hours Policy

Just a reminder that I do tell our teachers to switch off all work devices at a reasonable hour to ensure they have time with their families and time to unwind. There's no problem you messaging at a time convenient to you and so far all parents have understood perfectly that replies may come much later. So this is just a reminder that your message may not even get read until later on. Despite my instructions however, I do know that teachers often ignore it and are very prompt at replying so please don't take advantage of their dedication.

Secondly, thank you to parents who message me. But Dojo's not something I really access other than when I'm looking at the sort of work being set. If you do want to contact me please either use my email above or, of course, talk to me on the playground (I'm on duty a fair proportion of the mornings and afternoons – mainly on KSI at the moment to be on hand to answer any questions).

### Snow Plan

We are approaching that time of year again. We love snow days at The William Amory (well, the first day at least) because we can spend some time building snowmen and making snow angels on the playground.

If it is snowy, please send your child in with (LABELLED) waterproof shoes/boots/wellies, plenty of socks and waterproof gloves. Warm coats etc go without saying. Everything in a distinct or even labelled bag helps staff as one crumpled Tesco bag with soaking wet black gloves in it looks much like another. I am required to publish a snow plan which can be found [here](#).

We make every attempt to remain open, even if we need to double up classes and scrap the curriculum for that day. However, this is not always possible and we do have a duty to ensure we have sufficient staff to cover our legal responsibilities. And, of course, Covid is always in the background of every decision we make. Below are reminders of how we aim to operate on snow days:

- Our local schools share information from 06:00 though we make our own decisions mostly based on staffing.
- Staff inform me of the possibility of getting to school and nursery. Please remember that some staff commute for up to an hour and many live in the Peaks so they may be better or worse off than Blythe Bridge for snow.
- I make a decision with this information, along with Met Office and BBC weather forecasts. **I publish via text to all parents/carers by 06:45 if the school and nursery are to close.** I then inform the authorities who publish it. Please do not rely on websites or radio – your text is accurate as everything else can't be guaranteed.
- Once the decision to close is made, that is final.
- We make every attempt to clear paths to the school but conditions dictate what we do on the day.
- I may well close the school the night before if it is clear that the weather overnight is worsening.

To help us out please:

- Make sure we have your correct and current mobile number.
- Don't call school to see if we are open. If you have not heard by 06:45, we shall be open.
- Don't call school to see if you should send your child to school – we cannot make that decision on your behalf. If you do not think it is safe to come in, then please call and leave a message.

**And a final reminder - If you have not received a text by 06:45, the school is open.**

## CHRISTMAS – all reminders from last week.

### Reminder Christmas Jumper Day 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Wear a Christmas jumper, Christmas hat and/or other Christmas related clothing.

### Reminder Christmas Dinner

We can't all fit into the hall this year – but we can't miss out on Wizard and Slade with our turkey and stuffing. So we are going to stagger our dinners in the hall this year.

- Key Stage 1 – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December
- Years 3 & 4 – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Years 5 & 6 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

If your child normally has a school dinner then you need do nothing extra – s/he will automatically get a Christmas Dinner.

Vegetarian, allergen and pork free options will be given out to those with these dietary requirements. Please note that on your child's day there will be no other menu choices available to him/her.

**If you want your child to have a Christmas Dinner and s/he normally has a home packed lunch please let us know by phone by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.** You can leave a message on the answerphone and you will need to put the £2.30 into your ParentPay account.

### Reminder Christmas Party

Your teacher will send out information about your class party. Please note that all toys brought in are at your own risk. We advise you to only send toys/games that you won't mind if they accidentally get stood on by an over excited child pumped with sugary sweets.

- Nursery – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Reception – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Years 1 & 2 – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Years 3 & 4 – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Years 5 & 6 – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Reminder Christmas Cards – 10<sup>th</sup> December ONLY.

As you may well know – we normally discourage cards. Think about the maths – in a class of 30 each child gives each other a card ends up with nearly 900 cards being given and received. Multiply that by 7 classes and friends from other classes and that's around 6000 cards and envelopes all being given out. Added to this – even if a pack of 30 costs £1, that's still over £200 spent on cards, many of which are not recyclable and many are not even taken home.

However....

This year we think that perhaps we need to be a bit more flexible as we are all missing out on so much. So...

**Cards need to be brought in on 10<sup>th</sup> December. We will store them in Santa's postbox for 72 hours and distribute them on the last Monday of term.** Only cards to your own class please.

### Reminder Christmas Performance/Service online by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

I'm always exceptionally proud of our Nativity and the extremely high standards of each performance... and then to add to the nativity is our end of year service.

This year we are videoing a set of classroom performances and stitching them together to make one longer performance.

Please understand that we are doing this as a piece of fun – it's not meant to replace the excellent Nativity that Mrs Coates and her team put on. We've done away with scripts because we keep finding that children need to isolate for a few days and our classes go from 100% attendance to 80% and back most days. So they'll be mainly whole class performances designed to lift the spirits between Christmas Dinner and evening turkey sandwiches.

This video will be put in a passworded area of our website. Traditionally these are massive files and it's never worked smoothly yet but fingers crossed this year it will.

### Reminder Other visitors

We are sure that other 'seasonal visitors' may well be stopping by this year.

As always, I will always do my best to speak to you about any concerns you may have on the day so please feel free to approach me, either on the playground or book an appointment if you prefer.



Mr B Wilken

## Other Information Sources and Signposts

### Definition of Close Contact.

We have received a new definition of close contact from Staffs CC. Please read below.

*Over the weekend there has been a change in the definition of a “close contact” which will have significant impact in all workplaces including school and early years settings when a positive case of Covid-19 is reported. Please see the revised definition below.*

#### *Revised Definition*

*Close contacts are anyone in contact with a confirmed case during the infectious period, in the following circumstances:*

- a. Household contact.*
- b. Direct contact:*
  - *Face to face contact within one metre for any duration;*
  - *Skin to skin contact;*
  - *Someone the case coughed on;*
  - *Any contact within one metre for more than one minute.*
- c. Proximity contact:*
  - *Within one to two metres on one or more occasions during a single day for a total duration of more than 15 minutes; or*
  - *Travelling in a car or other small vehicle or close to the case on a bus, train, plane.*

I can only presume that ‘face to face contact’ means no mask and the ‘any contact within one metre...’ means wearing masks. I don’t know what it means if one person is wearing a mask and one isn’t (like pretty much all primary schools).

I think this may have a **very significant** impact on the running of the school. Even though we wear PPE administering first aid, I can imagine that one grazed knee will put first aiders at risk of needing to isolate. Dinner ladies who help put on a coat or a pair of gloves may end up having to isolate. Similarly, if I enter a classroom to talk about something – we might also find that I fall foul of the Proximity Contact definition. These may well decimate our staff numbers if we get a case in school.

Prevention is better than cure – please continue to observe the rules outside school so that we can continue to remain open.