



# Christmas



**December 2017**

**Dear Parents/Carers**

***Please find news, details and a calendar of events on the run up to Christmas. Please keep the calendar handy for your reference.***

## **Winter Weather**

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to "unavoidable" circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Tow Law Millennium Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways and clearing access points etc.

## **How will we let you know if the school is closed?**

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions I may, as Headteacher, have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via the Durham Closures website. To determine whether our school is open or closed, please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures). Search for the school in the search box. The Durham Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Durham are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts on the Durham Closures website. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if our school is closed. Parents can also listen to local radio stations to hear if the school has closed.

## **What can you do to help?**

- Please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads](http://www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Durham so you can plan your journey.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hat, scarves, wellies, etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping us remain open during periods of severe snow/ ice.

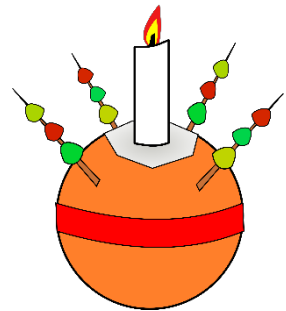
## School Dinners

Could parents please follow our school's procedure for the payment of dinner money. This should be paid on a **Monday** morning for the week ahead, either by cash or a cheque made payable to "Durham County Council" and placed in a named envelope and given to your child to **hand in to the class teacher**.

If you wish to change from packed lunch to dinners or vice versa, we will require half a term's notice. If you arrange a medical appointment for the morning, can you please ensure you inform the **School Office before 10.00 am** if you still require a lunch for your child. All dinners are ordered at this time, so if we are unaware your child will be returning to school, there will be no dinner ordered.

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Our Christingle Service will take place on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at St Philip's and St James' Church at 2.45pm. The children will be walking down at 2.15pm and any parents who wish to help escort them should arrive in school at 2pm. All children will then be dismissed from the church after the service.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY WITH CHRISTMAS LUNCH



This year, Christmas lunch will be served on **Wednesday 6 December** for staff, governors and pupils. Children can wear Christmas jumpers/smart non-uniform or Christmas accessories.

## FINAL FISCH AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

If your child has been attending the FISCH after school club on a Thursday evening, the last session will be **Thursday 7 December**, when they will be finishing with an "Extreme Dodgeball – Kids v Grown Ups" match. Slips have been sent out to attendees and should be returned to the School Office.

## EYFS/KS1 NATIVITY PLAY

Our Early Years/KS1 Nativity play will take place on **Wednesday 13 December** at 9.30am. Please come along and entrance is £1 to be paid at the door. Pictures of your child in their Nativity costume will be on sale for £1 as well as seasonal gifts such as reindeer dust and reindeer hot chocolate cones. We will also be having a "Guess the Amount of Sweets in the Jar" competition.



## KS2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

This year, our KS2 children will be performing "The Last Christmas!" on **Wednesday 20 December** at 1.30 pm. Entry will be £1 at the door. There will be seasonal gifts, a wine/water lucky pick stall and a "Guess the Weight of the Cake" competition.

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AND FAMILY ASSEMBLIES

Most after school clubs will finish on Thursday this week with the exception being Mrs Hurton's Christmas Craft Club which will finish next Tuesday and the KS2 FISCH club which finishes on Thursday 7 December. There will be no more Friday Family Assemblies for the remainder of this term.

## CELEBRATIONS ASSEMBLY

Our Celebrations Assembly is on **Thursday 21 December**. Teas and coffees will be served from **1pm** and we will have a general tombola, bric-a-brac stall, teddy tombola and seasonal gifts. If you are having a clear out before Christmas and have any items you could donate towards these stalls or the raffle, please send these into school



The Assembly will then start at **2.00 pm** and all are welcome to attend.

Please find attached two strips of raffle tickets for £1 per strip – please return these to school in a named envelope with the name clearly printed on the back of **each** ticket.

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES/LAST DAY OF TERM



Christmas parties will be on **Friday 22 December**, which is the last day of term. Children may come to school in their party clothes, however, please note that sensible shoes must still be worn and make up is not allowed during school hours. Please note this is not a toy day so please do not send toys into school.

## And Finally .....

**We break up for Christmas on Friday 22 December and if you wish, you may pick up your child from 1.15 pm. We return to school on Tuesday 9 January 2018.**

**Have a wonderful  
Christmas and New  
Year!!**

**Lisa Jackson  
Headteacher**



**Happy  
Holidays**

## TOW LAW MILLENNIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL 2017 Christmas Activities

Date	Time	Event
Friday 1 December	2.45 pm	Christingle Service in St Philip's & St James' Church. Children dismissed from church.
Wednesday 6 December	12 noon	Christmas Dinner Day (for children, staff, and governors only) Christmas jumpers/accessories can be worn or smart non-uniform
Thursday 7 December	3.15 – 4.15pm	Final FISCH After-School Club with a "Kids v Grown Ups" Dodgeball game
Wednesday 13 December	9.30 am	EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance. Entrance £1 at door.
Thursday 14 December	10 am	Carol Singing at Baring Court (20 children)
Friday 15 December	11.45 am	Y5 to Wolsingham School for Science – last session
Tuesday 19 December	am	Dogs Trust Assembly and Workshops for Classes 1, 2 and 3
Wednesday 20 December	1.30 pm	KS2 Production of "The Last Christmas!". Entrance £1 at door.
Thursday 21 December	1pm 2pm	Teas and coffees with tombola/bric-a-brac etc Celebrations Assembly with raffle
Friday 22 December	am	Christmas Parties with disco
	School closes for Xmas break. Parents can pick children up from 1.15 pm.	
Tuesday 9 January 2018	8.55 am	School re-opens.

