



4 December 2018

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. 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 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.

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS

If you have a child ready to start school in September 2019 and you haven't yet applied for a place, please go to www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. From here, you can view the parents' guide to applying for school places and make your own application online. Please note that the application deadline is **Tuesday 15 January 2019**. The offer of a school place will be made on 16 April 2019.

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.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence in term time will not be granted unless there are circumstances deemed to be exceptional by the Headteacher. Please note that holidays during term time will not be granted, however, for **all** absence requests, a Leave of Absence form **must** be completed prior to the time requested.

INHALERS

Important Notice - Could parents of children with asthma please ensure that an inhaler is brought in to keep in school.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Can I thank all parents for attending their Parents' Evening appointments in November - We had 100% attendance!



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Our Christingle Service took place last Friday and if parents would like to make a donation, please return the candle donation box before Friday 14 December.

EYFS/KS1 NATIVITY PLAY

Our Early Years/KS1 Nativity play will take place on **Tuesday 11 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. Raffle tickets will also be on sale at the door.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY WITH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year, Christmas lunch will be served on **Wednesday 12 December** for staff, governors and pupils. Children can wear Christmas jumpers/smart non-uniform or Christmas accessories.

KS2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

This year, KS2 children will be holding a Christmas Crafts and Carol Singing afternoon for parents on **Friday 14 December** at 1.30 pm – all are welcome. Following the singing, parents/carers may sign out EYFS/KS1 children for our Christmas Fayre afternoon in the Hall, practical area and KS2 classrooms. If you are having a clear out before Christmas and have any items you could donate towards the fayre, please send these into school. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the door.



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will finish on this week with the exception of Lingotots French Club which will finish on Monday 10 December.

FAMILY ASSEMBLIES

Our last Family Assembly is this Friday at 2.40pm including a presentation from the Tow Law Food Bank. We are asking that all children please bring in a tin of food for the Food Bank on Friday morning.



CELEBRATIONS ASSEMBLY

Our Celebrations Assembly is on **Thursday 20 December** at **2.00 pm** and all are welcome to attend. There will be a recorder performance by our children at the beginning of the assembly and certificates will be handed out by Mr J Ferstenberg, the Headteacher from Wolsingham School and Community College.

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 21 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.

Mrs McCluskey

As some of you may know, Mrs McCluskey is retiring on the last day of term. She has been a stalwart member of our staff for 20 years - since before I arrived as Headteacher when it was Tow Law Juniors and Infants Mixed in the old building!! On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to say she will be sorely missed and we wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.



And Finally

**We break up for Christmas on Friday 21 December and if you wish, you may pick up your child from 1.15 pm.
We return to school on Monday 7 January 2019.**

**Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!!
Lisa Jackson
Headteacher**



TOW LAW MILLENNIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

2018 Christmas Activities

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 5 December	9.00 am	Flu vaccinations in school from Reception to Y5 for parents who have given their permission online
	11.00 am	Children carol singing at The Luncheon Club, Tow Law Community Centre
	3.15 pm	Football match at Parkside with Miss Bell and Miss Kirton
Friday 7 December	2.40 pm	Last Family Assembly with a presentation from Tow Law Food Bank (children to bring in tins)
Monday 10 December	3.15 – 4.30 pm	Last Lingotots French Club
Tuesday 11 December	9.30 am	EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance. Entrance £1 at door. Raffle tickets on sale on door.
	10.30 am	KS2 carol singing at Baring Court
Wednesday 12 December	12 noon	Christmas Dinner Day (for children, staff, and governors only) Christmas jumpers/accessories can be worn or smart non-uniform
Friday 14 December	1.30 pm	KS2 Christmas Crafts and Carol Singing afternoon – all are welcome. EYFS/KS1 children can be signed out at 2.15pm to join in Christmas Fayre in the School Hall. Raffle tickets for sale on door.
Tuesday 18 December	12.50 pm	Y5 to Wolsingham School for Humanities and Drama – last session
Thursday 20 December	2pm	Celebrations Assembly with recorder performance (raffle tickets attached to return to school)
Friday 21 December	am	Christmas Parties with disco
	School closes for Xmas break. Parents can pick children up from 1.15 pm.	
Monday 7 January 2019	8.55 am	School re-opens.

