



December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Our Vision

Tow Law Millennium Primary School is a nurturing and happy community; where children are supported to achieve their dreams.

Our Values

Wellbeing Nurture
Respect Kindness
Self-belief Community

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 by sending a text via ParentPay, we will also post on Facebook. Please log onto your ParentPay account and ensure details are up to date to ensure you receive these messages. In addition to this you can log onto 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 the 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.

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 2022 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 15 January, 2022. The offer of a school place will be made on 19 April 2022.

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 all parents of children with asthma please ensure that an inhaler and spacer are brought in to keep in school.



Christmas Jumper Day with Christmas Lunch

We will be having our Christmas lunch on 1st December. Children can wear suitable party clothes or a Christmas jumper / top. Please send in £1. All donations will go towards school funds.

After School Clubs

We are continuing with EYFS / KS1 and a KS2 Club once a week after the holidays. These are led by staff and held on a Tuesday 3.15 – 4.00 pm. Please note there will be no clubs on the last week of term or the first week back after Christmas.

Christingle

Our Christingle service will take place on Friday, 3 December at 2.45 pm in school with Rev Whalley. We had hoped to return to church but following the latest advice from DCC will hold it for children only.



Christmas Parties – last week of term

- Class 1 - Thursday pm
- Class 2 - Wednesday pm
- Class 3 - Tuesday pm
- Class 4 - Tuesday am



All children can come to school for party day in party clothes **BUT** sensible shoes to enable them to play party games.

EYFS / KS1 Nativity Play

We are holding 'A King is Born' nativity in school the week beginning 6th December. Our audience for this year will be our KS2 pupils. Unfortunately, parents are unable to attend but we are hoping to record it and will keep you updated. All individual photos of the cast will be available that week at a cost of £1.

Christmas Raffle

Prizes 1st – Drinks Hamper, 2nd – Food Hamper, 3rd – Chocolate Hamper. Plus a variety of smaller prizes.

Raffle tickets are attached. These can be purchased by sending money into school – tickets are £1 per strip. If you require any more raffle tickets please call at the office.

Please make sure that you write your child's name on each strip of tickets.

School Staff

As some of you may be aware Mrs Boulton will be going on maternity leave soon. We look forward to the new arrival in the Boulton household in the new year.

Mrs Moralee left on 12 November to take up a post at Lanchester. We will miss her and wish her every success in her new job.

Mrs Ann Wessels, an experienced EYFS Teacher, will be covering Class 4. We also welcome Mrs Louise Marshall our new TA and Miss Jessica Gibson Apprentice Business Administrator.

Covid Update

There has been a large increase in the number of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for Covid-19 and the highest cases are in school age children. The increase in cases in children is disrupting their education and in line with advice from Durham County Council we are:-

- Continuing with face coverings in communal areas / when on the yard / meeting visitors.
- Changing the sittings and reducing the mixing of EYFS / KS1 & KS2 in the dinner hall.
- Postponing planned trips.
- Having our Christingle in school, not Church.
- Continuing, where possible to hold events virtually.

Celebrations Assembly - Our end of term assembly

This will be held in school on 16 December for pupils and staff.

We break up for Christmas on Thursday, 16 December at 3.15 pm and will return to school on Wednesday, 5 January, 2022.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New year.

**Lisa Jackson
Headteacher**



TOW LAW MILLENNIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

2021 Christmas Activities

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 1 December	All day	Christmas Dinner Day (for children and staff only) Christmas jumpers / accessories can be worn or smart non-uniform.
Friday 3 December	pm	Christingle Service – 2.45 pm
Week Beginning 6 December		A King is Born, Nativity for KS2 to watch
Tuesday 14 December	am pm	Class 4 party Class 3 party
Wednesday 15 December	pm	Class 2 party
Thursday 16 December	pm	Class 1 party
Thursday 16 December	pm	Non-uniform day - £1 donation Celebrations Assembly
Wednesday 5 January 2022	8.55 am	School re-opens.

