

Rumboldswhyke Newsletter 9th December 2021

Part of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership



'Love life, love learning, love God's world'

office@rumboldswhyke.org.uk 01243 782368

Head of School: Mrs Lisa Harris head@rumboldswhyke.org.uk



Dear Rumboldswhyke families,
I write with huge pride this week at the achievements of our children and Rumboldswhyke community.

Year 3 Oscar winners!

Last Saturday, Ms Davies and I met our Year 3's at the New Park Film Centre in Chichester for a screening of the movies they have been creating with Dr Ali Khan from Stem Innovations. Over the past 5 weeks, they have drafted scripts, become actors, directors and editors to tell the stories of influential people who have left their mark on the world. After the screening, deservedly so, the children walked the red carpet to receive their Oscars in recognition of the superstars they are.



Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was an amazing success on Tuesday due to the kindness and generosity of our Rumboldswhyke families and the Immanuel Church, Chichester. Thank you so much for your support with donations and for coming along to get involved. We couldn't do it without you! We raised an impressive **£350!**



A huge and heartfelt thanks to Reverend Paul Collins and his wonderful church team who came and set up the most incredible Santa's Grotto for our children, (although I have to admit, the adults in school received as much awe and wonder too). Every child was able to go on a magical journey through a moonlight forest, a winter wonderland and arrive in Santa's sitting room where they could warm by the fire. A truly magical

experience, never to be forgotten! We feel very blessed to have such a supportive and thoughtful community behind us.

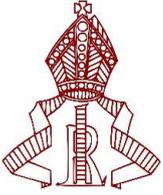
Updated Guidance from the Government

On Wednesday 8th December, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of [Plan B of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan](#), to reduce pressure on the NHS. Plan B sets out a number of additional measures across society to control transmission of COVID-19. Due to the critical importance of each of our members of staff, we will all continue to work on site for the safe running of the school.

The Government is clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and the Government will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open with additional mitigating measures in place. Guidance issued to school this morning, states that visitors to school should wear a face covering and that 'Settings are strongly encouraged to ask parents, guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the setting.'



We are now asking that parents do not enter the school building unless completely necessary and they wear a face covering and take a lateral flow test that day which is negative. As before, we will happily meet with parents outside, communicate via Seesaw, email or telephone. This is necessary to mitigate risks in the run up to Christmas to ensure we can continue with our plans. **If we receive any positive cases among children or staff we will not be able to invite parents in, even with these measures in place.**



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Government guidance currently states:

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Christmas Events

I am very keen to go ahead with our Nativity service in Church tomorrow and Red Classes production next Thursday. I feel that events such as these are needed within the community so we will do all we can to try and ensure these go ahead. Having missed my own daughters Reception Nativity service, I appreciate how heart-breaking it can be as you never get that time/experience back. However, I also have a duty of care for the children and staff to mitigate risks so we can all enjoy Christmas with our families and loved ones.



Christmas Post Boxes

These will be open for the children to post cards to their friends throughout the school. Cards will be delivered to the classes in the afternoon. Please ensure the child's name and class are written on the envelope.

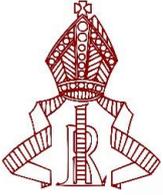
Blue Class Nativity Service

This morning we practised for Blue Classes Nativity Service in St. George's Church. The children looked and sounded amazing and we hope the parents of Blue class are able to join us tomorrow morning at 10am. **Please remember we must mitigate Covid risks and limit numbers in church. Two family members per child are welcome to come along to the service. We politely ask you wear a face mask at this event and to take a lateral flow test which shows negative before you attend. Let's keep everyone safe!**



Red Class Production

At the end of November, we were advised by Public Health England and West Sussex County Council, to monitor the situation closely before putting on any large gatherings. We continue to monitor this daily and at present we are planning to go ahead, again with mitigations. **We ask the audience to wear face coverings and follow government advice on administering a lateral flow test before visiting a busy space.**



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We also have a limit on two tickets (in total) per family.

We must limit numbers on site. To ensure every child is able to have at least one person watching each performance. **Parents have been given the option to request 2 tickets. This can be taken as 1 ticket for each performance, or 2 for the afternoon performance, or 2 tickets for the evening performance. We cannot offer 2 tickets for each performance.**

Initially, we gave parents the opportunity to request additional tickets which would be allocated if our risk assessment allowed it. Unfortunately, having assessed the risk of rapidly rising case numbers in Chichester, it saddens me to say that we will **not** be able to offer additional tickets this year.

Three local schools have had to close full year groups and cancel all Christmas events. With the production being so close to the end of term, I would hate to place everyone's family Christmas at risk by squeezing lots of adults in the school hall. If any of us need to isolate 10 days after the production, it will cover the Christmas period.

Therefore, each family will receive two tickets in total. If parents are concerned their child will not have a family member watching, may we suggest that you change your request to a ticket for each performance.

Children in Blue class will get the opportunity to see the production in school time as they will make up the audience for the dress rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon. Children are welcome to come along to the performances but will count in the two-ticket limit.

Best Wishes,

Lisa Harris

