

Wyche C.E. Primary School

office@wyche.worcs.sch.uk

17th December 2021 (Christmas Special)

This Term at the Wyche

Staff and pupils have worked hard and played hard all term and the outcomes are fantastic. Despite the ongoing Covid situation the talented Wyche adults and the gifted Wyche pupils have been immersed in the curriculum and grown physically, mentally and spiritually. May I thank you all for your words and deeds of support for us here, your praise and positive feedback to staff and your forbearance with Covid restrictions and risk assessment measures. We long for a time when we can mix freely together in the building for parent consultations, assemblies, learning showcases, services and performances and this day will come again, I assure you. Nevertheless, it has been a hugely successful term so pat your kids on the back and give a thumbs up to a member of staff when you see one. They've earned it.

Planning for the future

We don't know what lies ahead in terms of national restrictions with regards to the Omicron variant. I don't know any more than yourselves at this stage, and we all fervently hope that the government do not close schools again but rest assured, if remote learning is required once more, we are working in the background to ensure this can happen quickly and well, reviewing our policies and approaches in line with good practice, bringing new members of staff on board and developing our offer further to include daily live instruction for children learning remotely, (recorded for those who cannot attend at the time) and opportunities for support for those who struggle with the learning. Rest assured that if this is needed it is in hand and I hope this goes some way to easing any concerns you may have over the Christmas holidays as the news media alternately reports and speculates about the January return. Whatever happens, we will deal with it together, as a community, with your children's education as our number one priority.

Goodbye to Mr Pett

It is at the end of this term that we sadly say goodbye to Mr Pett, who over the last 10 years has taught so many of your children, created so many creative and immersive curriculum projects and cracked so many wonderful jokes. We will miss his commitment to education and children's wellbeing, and we'll miss his sense of fun and how hard he has always strived to make learning enjoyable and engaging. I know you will join me in offering Mr Pett our heartfelt thanks and the absolute best of luck in his future.

Deputy Headteacher

Now that Mr Westwood has retired, we have advertised for a Deputy Headteacher. We will be interviewing candidates in February 2022 and hope to be able to appoint for an April start, at the earliest, September 2022 at the latest. This has no bearing on Mrs Charles' position here, despite the fact that she is teaching in Green class. I can assure you that whatever the outcome of the appointment process, Mrs Charles will be the Green class teacher throughout the academic year until the end of the summer term, giving the children the security and benefit of her excellent teaching.

Mental Health

Don't forget the resources on our [Mental Health and Wellbeing Page](#) for anyone finding it hard at this time of year to stay well, in body, mind or spirit.

Mon 20th Dec – Mon 3rd Jan Christmas holidays

Tues 4th Jan INSET day.

Wed 5th Jan First Day of Spring Term
Woodwind, drum and FAME lessons all resume today

Thurs 6th Jan Brass and piano lessons resume

Hot Meals Black Pepper's on line ordering for next half-term's hot meals opens on Saturday 18th December, so that you can get meals ordered before Christmas should you wish.

Parking We know that parking at school, particularly at drop off and collection times can be problematic and there have been a few issues this term with complaints from our neighbours. Please can we ask that you continue to consider our neighbours when finding a place to park, even if you think you will only be a few minutes, the fact that they find their access to their home blocked most days is understandably frustrating.

Friends The Christmas Fayre raised approximately £2,500, many thanks to all of you for your support. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Friends.

Coronavirus As you are aware the advice around the need to self-isolate for those identified as being in close contact of a positive case have changed this week. Attached is the latest guidance from the DfE for parents for you to have at hand should this happen to you over the Christmas holidays.
If your child has symptoms and receives a positive PCR test on, or before, midnight on Sunday 19th December please can you notify the school via covid@wyche.worcs.sch.uk. Similarly, if your child has a positive test later in the holidays or has been advised to self-isolate and will not be able to return on 5th January, please notify the school using the same email address so that we can set up some remote learning for them on our return. Please do not use the covid@ email address for any other correspondence, this should continue to be sent to the usual office email address.

It is the season of hope and so I hope you find moments of comfort and joy over the festive break.

I wish you a delightful Christmas and together let's make it a happy new year.

Season's Greetings,

Stephen Murphy
Headteacher