



Canberra Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

December 2020



Message from Mrs Heasman

Dear Parent/Carer The Christmas Spirit has well and truly reached Canberra! Christmas decorations are being made, nativity practices are underway, the Christmas Tree is up and Christmas lunch has been ordered! We might not be able to do things the way that we normally would but that isn't holding us back as we are determined to give the children a happy festive experience. We are disappointed that we won't be able to go to the Church however Rev McKenzie is in the process of developing a special online Christmas message for us to share at Assembly and there is a rumour that a Very Important Person is also going to send us a special message along with Christmas gifts for our Nursery - P3 children! Thanks goodness Santa has been quarantining in preparation for making his deliveries! As we say goodbye to 2020 we have been reflecting on the crazy strangeness of the year and all of the challenges it has brought. In true Canberra fashion however we are focusing on the positives and the way that our children, staff and parents have pulled together and risen to meet the challenges head on. We have learned lots and had to develop new skills at the speed of light and this has prepared us for any and every eventuality. Our thoughts turn now to the Christmas break and beyond. The term following the Christmas holidays is always very productive and usually the time when our children make the biggest progress in their learning. We look forward with positivity and are keen to make and implement our plans for the new term. We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday, a relaxing break and time together as a family in whatever form that may be this year! Regards Angela Heasman



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Dates for your diary



- 7.12.20** Carol Concert open on Google Classroom
- 11.12.20** Xmas Factor class vote
- 11.12.20** Xmas jumper/accessory day
- 14.12.20** Primary 7 Christmas party
- 15.12.20** Carol Concert entries in by today - post on Google Classroom please!
- 15.12.20** Primary 5 Christmas party
- 16.12.20** Christmas lunch
- 17.12.20** P6 Christmas party
- 18.12.20** P4 Christmas party/P1 Christmas party/ P3 Christmas party
- 21.12.20** Christmas Assembly
- 21.12.20** P2 Christmas party
- 22.12.20** Xmas Factor final

- 22.12.20** **Nursery Christmas party**
- 22.12.20** **Nursery finish for holiday between 2.15-2.30pm - please see email for allocated times**
- 22.12.20** **School finish for holiday 2.30pm (P2, P3, P5 & P7), 2.40pm (P1, P4 & P6)**
- 6.1.21** **Re-open 9.00/9.10am**

PREVENT



The aim of the Prevent strategy, published by the UK Government in 2011, is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism i.e. “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Covid -19 has provided a further opportunity for those wishing to radicalise children and young people. This is due to the spreading of misinformation (fake or misleading stories shared without deliberately intending to mislead), disinformation (deliberately created and shared fake or misleading stories) and conspiracy theories. In addition an increase in isolation, anxiety, frustration and anger will be experienced by some children and young people making them more vulnerable. Increased amounts of time online and the use of chat rooms and social media (e.g. Xbox & PlayStation live games, TikTok videos, You Tube videos) also provide more opportunities for children to be exposed to groups with extreme views. At Canberra we provide a nurturing environment and promote strong relationships which give children the confidence to confide their worries. Staff awareness of the most recent guidance has been raised and we are actively looking at our procedures and curriculum to include best practice in combating radicalisation. Our computer network has checks in place which block any inappropriate content and we supervise internet usage. What can you do at home? Help your child to think critically about reports which blame minority groups for the spread of Covid-19 and help them to discuss and understand the thinking behind theories that don't make sense. Monitor your child's online presence and use of social media. Check that their profiles are secure and encourage them to use devices within a shared space such as the living room. For more information on helping your child stay safe online click on the links to visit [ThinkuKnow](#) or [NSPCC](#)

Co-Opted Management Team



I am delighted to advise that Miss Harris, Mrs Gourlay and Mrs McNulty have joined Mrs Graham and I on the school management team. By co-opting members we have more than doubled the strategic leadership capacity of the school. Mrs Graham and I will continue to have overall strategic oversight and management of the school and will be supported in specified areas by our co-opted members. This is an exciting opportunity which will have positive benefits for the school and the staff members involved, who will develop key leadership and management skills, which will help them progress in their careers. Their remits are as follows: Miss Harris - Equity Lead Mrs Gourlay - Numeracy Lead Mrs McNulty - Nursery Lead