



### The joys of Isolation!



Hello to all of our pupils and staff who are currently isolating at home. This group includes myself; Mrs Hartley, as I have also been asked to isolate along with pupils and staff from school! I empathise with you all and am looking forward to joining everyone back in school at some point next week! Well done to all of the families who have joined us for virtual lessons and completed some learning at home. We realise that it is not easy to bring school to home and that every family will access varying amounts of home learning. Well done and we'll see you soon!

### GOOD BYE



We will be losing a pupil from our Middleton community this Christmas as he moves to a new school in January. We wish Barnie the best of luck in his new school. We will miss you and your family and hope that you will keep in touch. Good luck!

### Thinking of you



Our thoughts are with Mrs Smiton, one of our teachers, as she has suffered a family bereavement. We send our love and support.

### Christmas Jumper Day



On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December we begin our Christmas celebrations. We start the week by inviting pupils and staff to wear a Christmas jumper as part of a non-uniform day. We ask for a £1.00 donation which is then passed on to the 'Save the Children' fund.

We have a week of festivity lined up for the pupils, but would like to take this opportunity to reassure families that additional restrictions and modifications will be central to the delivery of our Christmas events. They may not resemble our usual traditions as we have to place the safety and well being of all at the top of our agenda, but we will have some Christmas fun with the children next week!

### Tales From The Chalkface!

#### Lower School

The children in Lower School have begun Christmas in earnest and have been very busy baking mince pies and Christmas cake, making decorations and getting arty with Christmas cards!



They have read the Nativity story and explored

this with figures to re-enact the tale. The children have all enjoyed a Winter walk in bracing British weather!

In Maths they have been learning about object permanence and identifying where specific objects belong, both in the home and in the classroom.

They have all enjoyed singing Christmas songs and playing Christmas bells in music.



### Middle School

The Middle School pupils have continued with their topic on celebrations. They have been learning about the meaning of 'Advent' for Christians and made a Christingle and an Advent wreath.



They have been using an advent calendar to count down the days until Christmas.

They have explored the Christmas story and explored the story using sensory props. They then completed a piece of writing about the story. In PSHE they have walked to Ware town to see the Ware Christmas Bear and practise their road safety skills.



In history, the pupils have been studying the Romans. They had a Roman meal

and compared this to food they eat today.

## Upper School

The Upper School have been learning how the human digestive system works.

In art they drew holly leaves learning how to demonstrate line and tone using cross hatching.

In History they found out about David Attenborough and the work that he has carried out with animals around the world. They then followed this up with some work on animal welfare. This work also involved a study of Charles Darwin and discussion about how we need to look after animal species to ensure they exist in the future.



The children in Upper School visit the grounds of the care home to sing Christmas carols this week which was much appreciated.

### Reporting COVID cases over Christmas . . .

I really hope that we will not be needing to contact families or staff members over the Christmas break to inform them that they need to self isolate. We are doing everything possible to maintain safety within school over the coming weeks and reduce the risk of transmission. However, the local authority have asked us to share the following information with you;

*If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the*

*Christmas break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate.*

*During the holidays you should contact Sharron Graffato on the following e mail address or telephone number;*

[sharron.graffato@middleton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sharron.graffato@middleton.herts.sch.uk)

07740410650

*– this will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as after this point your child(ren) shouldn't be a close contact of anyone at the school. Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during Christmas term.*

**Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas.**

### Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or

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*things smell or taste different to normal*

- *If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>*
- **Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:**
- *they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)*
- *they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19*
- *they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested*

*Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide)*

*If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice,*

visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If your child or a household member develops symptoms on or after Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, then there will not be school related close contacts identified. Although it will still be helpful for you to share this information with us, it will be the national track and trace group who you will need to inform and not the school. This is because any close contacts who need to be informed will not be related to Middleton School but to the wider community.

I hope that all of our families are able to enjoy a restful Christmas. We appreciate that it may be a little different to usual this year, but as long as we all remain healthy we will have a successful Christmas! Look after each other and stay safe.

The children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and we close at 1.15pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January for staff training.

Merry Christmas  
Kind Regards

*Debbie Hartley*

