



Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that already we have nearly reached December! It has been a busy half term so far and our children, as always, have engaged amazingly with their learning and enrichment. Below is some key information for you about the rest of the term, including our Christmas plans!

COVID Update

Just a reminder to all parents that you can lateral flow test your children if they have been a contact of a positive COVID case. By testing them, this helps us to identify asymptomatic cases and reduce the transmission. If you need any lateral flow tests, we do have some at school, so please ask Mandy or the Office for a box of them. Due to the new variant, if any of you want to wear a face mask on the playground then that is entirely up to you. Currently, Government guidance is only for secondary schools, however, we review our risk assessment and COVID cases daily to ensure that Ayrton is as safe as it can be.

January Dinner Menu

We are very excited to launch with you and the children our new menu in January. We surveyed the children and amended it based on their feedback of what they liked and didn't. We now have four options every day! The menu will be available on our website and a paper copy will also be sent out this week.

Nut free school

We have a few children who have significant nut allergies to a variety of different types of nuts. Because of this, and the severity of their allergies, we have taken the decision, alongside guidance from the school nurse, to ask parents to not send their children in with chocolate spread sandwiches. Please also check the ingredients of any items that contain chocolate to ensure that they do not contain nuts.

Uniform

Just a reminder that all children in Years Three to Six, as part of their uniform, need to wear a tie. White school shirts should be worn for children in Years One to Six. Black Trainers are not part of school uniform. A school red jumper with the Ayrton logo should also be worn. If you are struggling with uniform, please let us know so that we can help you – we have lots of donated uniform that is in great condition.

Acts of Kindness Calendar

This year we have decided to do a giving back advent calendar for our local food bank. If you can spare any items of food, please see what your child's class is collecting below and on which dates:

Nursery and both Reception classes – Wednesday 1st December – savoury tins

Year One Smalls – Thursday 2nd December - biscuits

Year One Mumbles – Friday 3rd December - biscuits

Year Two St Ives – Monday 6th December – dried packets

Year Two Barns Ness – Tuesday 7th December – dried packets

Year Three New Brighton - Wednesday 8th December – non alcoholic bottles

Year Three St Catherine's – Thursday 9th December – non alcoholic bottles

Year Four Needles – Friday 10th December – chocolate and sweets

Year Four Portland Bill – Monday 13th December – chocolate and sweets

Year Five Southsea – Tuesday 14th December – tinned fruit/puddings

Year Five St Hellier – Wednesday 15th December – tinned fruit/puddings

Year Six Wolf Rock – Thursday 16th December - cereals

Year Six St Bees – Friday 17th December – cereals

Christmas

Christmas lunch is on Friday 10th December this year and we are also supporting the NSPCC Christmas Jumper Day. Please send your child in with 50p if they would like to wear their Christmas jumpers. A separate letter with menu choices has gone out, but if you would like another one, please speak to the Office.

We are very lucky to have Father Christmas coming to our outside grotto this year. Reception and Key Stage One will meet him on Tuesday 14th December and our Nursery and Key Stage Two will have their chance to meet him on Wednesday 15th December. There is no charge for his visit, however if you do not wish for your child to meet him, please complete the slip below and send it back to your child's class teacher.

On Friday 17th December, there will be Christmas Fayre activities in classes, such as guess the name of the elf, guess how many sweets in the jar and guess the weight of the cake. Its 50p per activity and our School Council will be deciding how to spend the money raised. If your child would like to bring in some money to have a go, please pop it in their book bags in a labelled envelope. On this day, there will also be class parties and we have booked a virtual Peter Pan pantomime for all of the children. A separate letter will follow from your child's class teacher about party food arrangements.

As many of you will have seen and heard, the Government have reintroduced certain COVID measures, due to the new variant. We are waiting on further guidance from the Government and Portsmouth City Council about Christmas performances. We will confirm our plans for the Cathedral concert and Reception nativity as soon as possible.

As usual, if you ever need to speak to me, please phone the Office for an appointment.

Kind regards,



Mrs Bennett-Acres and Team Ayrton

Meeting Father Christmas –

I do not wish for my child to meet with Father Christmas on Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th December –

Child's Name _____

Child's Class _____

Signed by parent/carers _____