

# Spring Meadow Infant and Nursery School Weekly Update 27th November - 7th December 2020



## Key Dates:

**18th December**—Last day of Autumn Term

**4th January 2021**—Staff Training Day

**5th January 2021** —Children return to school

## Christmas Dates and Events

**9th December:** Classes filmed for the Christmas production.\* All children in smart uniform please!

**14th December:** A virtual Christingle Service from Ely Cathedral.

**15th December:** Visit from Santa in the special Santa's Grotto in the Studio

**16th December:** Christmas lunch in school in Bubbles. Sadly we cannot welcome parents this year but Lucy and her school catering team will ensure the children all have a very special meal to remember .

**17th December:** Presents arrive for the children from Santa.

**17th December:** Christmas Bake Sale after school (and after Morning Nursery on 18th December). Lucy and her catering team have some special home-made tasty treats for you - more details to follow!

**18th December:** Class parties. Party wear, Christmas jumpers etc. (non-uniform day)

### \*Christmas singing production:

This will be compiled into a whole school event that will be filmed for all parents to enjoy at home. We plan to upload the film onto *You Tube* and will let you know when it goes live, as we near the end of this term. The link to access it will be secure and given to parents only. We will ask parents to agree to this, of course, before we film any child (see Consent Forms note on this page).

## Spring Meadow Infant and Nursery School—Message from the Head Teacher

*As we move towards the end of this Autumn term in school, we have a great deal to be thankful for, of course. We also have much that we feel frustrated by and hope that life may soon improve for us all.*

*Christmas is just around the corner and staying well is the most important thing for us all. Our systems to manage the arrival and departure times has worked well and ensured distancing is possible for the vast majority of the time, though now and again there have been 'pinch points.' Thank you to you all for managing this process so well.*

*We will continue to stagger the start and end times of the day for the children as we go into the New Year 2021. We will be asking all of our Year 1 parents to arrive just a little earlier, at 9.00am please, and collect at the end of the day at 3.15pm. We would like this change to take place as the late 3.25pm finish is a challenge for some children. We have also noted there is a clear space in the mornings from 9am and are happy to enable the children to get off to an earlier start.*

## Ely Children's Centre

The team at the Children's Centre would be really grateful to you if you took a few minutes to complete the survey below. They want to know what they are doing well to support you as a family and how this could be even better:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Childandfamilycentre2020/>

## Premier Sport Christmas Holidays

Multi-Sport Holiday Camp at the Paradise Leisure Centre, Ely.

There is a PDF attached to this newsletter with more details or you can go to [premier-education.com/parents/camps](http://premier-education.com/parents/camps)

## Christmas Cards

We would like to limit the number of items coming in to school, as we have done so all term. Christmas cards present a real challenge in terms of the quantity of items. If every child brings in 30 cards, in a class of 30 children that is 3000 separate surfaces!

If you can support your child to just write one card for the class, that would be wonderful.

However, if your child has already written their cards and wants to give these to the children, please send these in to school and we will quarantine these for 3 days before giving these out.

The last day for sending in cards is Tuesday 15th December 2020.

## Consent Forms

If you still have this form at home, can we ask you to return it as soon as possible please.

We are approaching the time where we will be taking lots of photographs and filming the children singing. Under the GDPR legislation, which has been in place since 2018, we need your written permissions to publish their images on any social media site. We need a clear indication from you that you *do* or *do not* wish for your child to be included.

### Christmas Dinner Day — Wednesday 16th December

On 16th December our school catering team will be making a wonderful Christmas meal for all the children and we hope every child will join-in with this special Spring Meadow Christmas tradition. There will be a roast turkey lunch with all the trimmings, followed by Lucy's famous chocolate yule log!



A Vegetarian option of a Quorn fillet will be available for children who are registered vegetarians and, of course, great care will be taken in preparing meals for children who have special dietary requirements.

Please note: **there will not be any school packed lunches made on this day.**

**You do not** need to order a Christmas dinner for your child. We will use the information we have on the school system to provide a meal for those with a special diet or those who only eat vegetarian meals. If your child usually brings their own packed lunch, they may continue to do so. Hopefully just for this day they might like to try a school roast instead!

### Fire Evacuation— False fire alarm trigger!

A massive thank you to all of our parents and carers for ensuring the whole school evacuation of the children went extremely well last week, twice! We have 221 children in school and 43 members of staff. Evacuating the whole school is a much-practised event for the staff and the children. It happens very smoothly and speedily, with everyone usually outside in the special evacuation zone in the car park in approximately 2—3 minutes.

Last week, we had to evacuate the building twice on the same day when our parents were also dropping children off, or coming to collect their children. When a serious event occurs we rely very much on calmness and ensuring the children understand the urgency of the situation, without causing them worry or anxiety.

Our parents and carers were just incredible, following all directions given by key staff to remain calm, wait in specific places until we were sure all was safe and we could go back into the building. It's just outstanding to know that if we were to find ourselves in a crisis situation, I know we can all work together as a team to keep our children, staff and visitors safe. Thank you again!



### Christmas Events—Planning Ahead

As we move into the last two weeks of term, the children will experience different types of Christmas activities. We will **NOT** be taking part in *Christmas Jumper Day*. This event can, and does, cause significant challenges for many in the forced purchase of jumpers to raise funds for a charity. We have just recently raised over £300 for *Children in Need* and feel it would be inappropriate to repeat a further event at this time. We would like to allow children to wear a special party-style outfit, if they wish, when we have our end of term Christmas parties on Friday 18th December. If you have bought a festive jumper for your child, please allow them to wear it on this day, but please do not purchase anything special for school.

A very kind parent has bought lots of snacks and biscuits for our class parties, so we may not need to ask for donations this year. The class teachers will let you know nearer the time.

### Staffing Updates

Mrs Plant (nee Shackleton) gave birth to a bouncing 10lb baby boy early in November. I am sure we will all want to congratulate her at this very exciting time.

Mrs Peachey is expecting a baby in the new year. She is still in school planning to meet the needs of the Nursery children and is being ably supported by Mrs Carter and Mrs Colbran, who are teaching across the week in Nursery. At this time, Mrs Peachey is distancing from the class for safety reasons but she can be contacted by Nursery parents with any queries via email [rpeachey@springmeadow.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:rpeachey@springmeadow.cambs.sch.uk)

### Catching-Up Funding and Extra Tuition

The government have given us a small pocket of money to enable children to 'catch-up'. We know as educators of very small children that good learning takes place when children feel safe, settled and valued. I am extremely proud of your children and our staff who have all worked so hard to get back to normal life at school (well, as normal as we can make it). They have adapted and persevered with the new arrangements and socially and emotionally huge leaps have been made by all. In 2021 we will continue to use the catch-up funding to extend our tutoring programme for children who will benefit from this approach. Thank you to all parents who have enabled their child to attend these extra sessions this term. Good progress is being made.