



### The Grinch

We all thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas film at the Odyssey on Wednesday. The children walked to and from the cinema so nicely and were incredibly well behaved. Lots of fun was had.

A huge thank you to Olivia Leblond for donating the sweets for the children. Very kind and generous and the children enjoyed them!

We would also like to thank the Parent Volunteers who walked us to and from the cinema but didn't have the opportunity to sit with us and watch the film. We really appreciated that you gave us your time to do this ... thank you from the staff and children!

### All Things Christmas



#### Nativity -

We are still deciding on whether the Infant Nativity will go ahead. We desperately want the children to perform to their parents, however we will have to change the way that we organise it this year.

We have different options ranging from parents seeing the play on separate nights - Reception, then Year 2 and then Year 1. We have considered having just the Year 2 parents to watch a performance as it will be the last time their child can do a Nativity play. We may even have to cancel any parents coming in to be the audience. The Nativity is going to be filmed, and we are looking into either live streaming, if that's possible, or creating a DVD. We will reach a decision by the middle of next week and let you know.

I appreciate that it's late in the day, but we just want to get it right.

#### Christmas Cards -

Sadly, this Christmas we will not be using the Post Box to deliver cards. Any Christmas cards need to be handed to the children in their classroom or outside school.

### COVID-19

Sadly, we have had a rise in the number of positive cases of COVID over the last week, resulting in our Year 3 class having to go into a bubble.

Firstly, I want to say how magnificent the children and teachers have been this week. So positive and up-beat and the children have had a lovely time despite being separated for the rest of the school.

Well done everyone in Year 3!

As cases rise, the implication for other classes reaching the 'outbreak' status which then puts them into a bubble will become more likely. I spoke with Public Health who recommend putting a class into a bubble if there are 5 children or 10% of children that have a positive PCR result. This potentially means that classes who have less than 30 pupils will have to go into a bubble with fewer than 5 testing positive.

If we know that class cases are rising, we will contact PH who will advise us on what the next steps will be, and we will inform the families of each class immediately.

Cases in the area are very high and many schools have several class bubbles. We are doing everything possible at school to avoid this by ventilating rooms, sanitising hands and adults are wearing face coverings where possible. Please follow guidelines and practice social distancing where possible, wear your face covering and do Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly for you and your child if you can.

Abbey has always had such an amazing community and so I know that you will all do what you can to try and keep the children in school, enjoying the Christmas festivities.

Thank you.



### Year 6 Young Apprentice

We are still hopeful that Year 6 can hold their Young Apprentice stalls in school, instead of at the Christmas Fair. They will set up their stalls in the Hall and we will invite each class to go and buy their wares or play the games that Year 6 have set up.

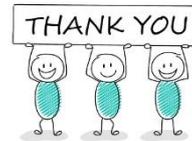
Year 6 plan to hold this event on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December after the Abbey service. If your child would like to buy anything from their stalls, then please can they bring in £1 in a purse or envelope. All money raised will go towards the school.



### Dogs

We just wanted to make you aware that a young man took a photograph of a dog tied up outside school on Thursday morning. Mr Astley was present at the time and saw what happened and kept an eye on the situation.

Just be cautious if you are leaving your dog on its own at drop-off time in case they are stolen. We haven't heard of any dogs being taken for a while, but we just wanted you to be aware.



### Thank you!

It has been a challenging week for all of us this week and so I would like to say a big thank you for your help and understanding. School will endeavour to inform you of any changes as they happen. We appreciate what you have done this week to help reduce the spread of COVID, and by testing regularly and keeping siblings off school will really help.

If your child is at home isolating and well enough to complete schoolwork, their teacher will send work via Google Classroom. Please just be mindful that the teachers are in class teaching lessons to their pupils; it won't be like Remote Learning in our lockdown situation, so work submitted will be looked at but cannot always be marked.



Have a good weekend everyone!

Miss Felstead

