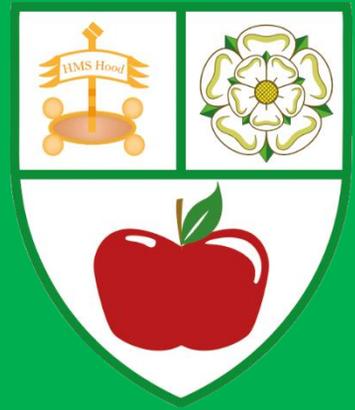


Applegarth Primary School Newsletter



11th December 2020

Winter Grants and Financial Hardship

We have arranged for food vouchers over the Christmas period for pupils entitled to income-dependent free school meals. I am acutely aware that there may be other families with financial pressure due to redundancies and other issues brought on by the pandemic. If you are NOT currently eligible for free school meals but require support over Christmas, please email welfare@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk and we may be able to help. In the event that we cannot directly assist you, it is worthwhile referring to the following information:

You can contact NYCC directly via the North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF). NYLAF can be contacted at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/nylaf or families can call the North Yorkshire County Council Customer Service Centre on: **01609 780780**.

Bags of Help Grant

A member of the PTA signposted us to a grant scheme through Tesco. Our bid was successful and we were awarded £1000 which we intend to spend on further enhancing the reading corners in classrooms to promote pupil wellbeing and a love of reading. Staff have dedicated themselves to making inviting environments; the money will go to good use in updating resources such as non-fiction texts (which align with our curriculum) and furniture.

Free School Meal Applications

I would like to remind all families (particularly Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) to complete a free school meal application. If your circumstances have changed e.g. furlough, redundancy or reduced hours, you may be entitled to a free meal and the school receives additional funding. Please collect a form from the office or visit the [school website](#).

New School Governors

We have two new community co-opted governors. Jill Pawluk is currently Director of Teaching and Learning at Yarm Preparatory School, having been in education for 14 years and having previously been a professional musician. Olivia Diggory has taught at primary level in the independent sector in North Yorkshire and is currently studying for a Master's Degree in Outdoor and Experiential Learning in Cumbria. We are confident that they will further strengthen our committed governing body.

Parent Governor Ballot

We have two parent governor vacancies and three nominations. This means there will be a ballot. You will receive one voting slip per Parent/Carer and you will be able to choose two candidates (since there are two seats). You will also receive instructions and statements from each candidate to inform your decision. Voting packs will be sent out on Monday 14th December and need to be returned to school no later than Wednesday 16th December at 6pm. Any votes received after this will not be counted.

DfE Announcement About Training Days

A recent DfE announcement stated that schools may wish to use Friday 18th December 2020 as an INSET (Training Day) day to ensure that school staff are not involved in contact tracing over Christmas. We have decided to remain open as planned because of the disruption a closure at such short notice would cause. It would not be fair on our pupils or working families.

Mrs Hopkin and I have been told to remain on-call to conduct any contact tracing for 6 days after the final day of teaching. The last-minute announcement was proposed for the sole purpose of preventing leaders from working on Christmas Eve and would have no benefit for the school community.



Christmas Dates

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be served **Wednesday 16th December**. Christmas Lunch can be ordered in the same way any other lunch can be ordered by using the Meal Selector through Parent Pay. In line with our staggered lunches, children will eat their Christmas Lunch with their bubbles.

Nativities

Our Reception and Key Stage One children have already begun learning lines and practising songs for this year's nativities. Although we won't be able to invite you into school to watch the nativities, we have a virtual plan in place to ensure you can enjoy your child's nativity. For those parents with children in Honeybees, Bumblebees, Pelicans, Puffins and Penguins, you will receive details **next week (W/C 14th December)** with the links and details of how you can remotely view the nativities.

Christmas Jumper Day / Last Day of Autumn Term

We will be raising money for Save the Children on this day, any donations will be gratefully received. On **Friday 18th December**, we are inviting all children and staff to come to school in their favourite Christmas jumper so we can all enjoy a festive last day of school for 2020!

Reporting Covid-19 Cases in the Christmas Holidays

School leaders will be involved in contact tracing should parents need to report confirmed cases in the first half of the Christmas holiday.

Please report positive cases using the welfare email address:
welfare@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk

We will monitor these emails at **5pm every day** up to (and including) **Thursday 24th December**. Only report confirmed positive cases (not the onset of symptoms or pending tests).

Year 5 Violin Performance

Visit the [blog](#) or [school website](#) to watch Year 5's violin performance with a Christmas twist!