

# A Christmas like no other!

## Priory School Christmas Plans 2020



Sadly, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the traditional nativity service at the Priory Church this year. Due to the current restrictions, we won't be able to have our Christmas Fayre, live Panto or singalong around the Christmas Tree for grandparents.

However, Christmas isn't cancelled and we are planning the following events instead. Some of these are being led by the amazing FPS team (see \*FPS).

### A Priory Advent

Every school day during Advent we will post a special vlog featuring a different musical treat from one of our pupils. The Music curriculum has been particularly affected during the pandemic, so this will be an opportunity to celebrate the talent of our children.

On the last day of term we hope to release a 'Staff Special'.

### KS1 Virtual Christmas Musical - Prickly Hay

Y2 are going to be performing the 'Prickly Hay' Nativity Musical.

*The Prickly Hay story begins with Sam, a hardworking young stable boy, trying to keep the stable clean and the hay fresh for all the animals in his stable - a very smelly job! No one seems to notice his hard work and it's making Sam feel very insignificant. His ever-faithful friends try to keep his spirits up, but Sam is finding it hard to feel important at all.*

*However, as crowds gather in Bethlehem for the census and the inns fill up, some very special visitors are shown to Sam's stable. Gradually, as the miraculous events of the night unfold, Sam starts to realise his worth - with a little help from his friends!*

We are going to film this in school on **Thursday 3rd December** (allowing plenty of time before the end of term in case there are any further Government announcements). **Where possible, we are asking parents to source their own costumes this year.**

Reception Class and Year 1 will also contribute with a song and a dance or two and we hope the finale will feature a version of 'Love Shone down' our favourite Christmas carol.

The filmed performance will be available in the last week of term to the whole school community.

## Christmas Decoration Day

**Friday 4th December** is our Christmas decoration day. Each child will make a Christmas tree decoration to take home. We will also put the best ones on display in the hall.

Each child will also make a Christmas card for someone special.

We hope to have 2 Christmas trees this year - one inside and one on display outside! (\*FPS)

## Christmas Cards and Christmas Postbox

On **Friday 4th December** the children will be allowed to bring in a Christmas card for children in their class bubble. This will be stored (quarantined!) in a special sack until Christmas party day, when they will be handed out.

Please note this is the only day we want Christmas cards to be brought into school as we are not operating the Postbox this year..

## Panto - Snow Queen

The Image Theatre company who usually come into school to do our live panto are recording this year's show. During the last week of school the children will enjoy their production of 'The Snow Queen' at a convenient time for their class.

## Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

On **Friday 11th December**, we are planning to hold our annual Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. If you can't get hold of a christmas jumper this year, please don't worry as we have some spare santa hats the children can wear instead. Money raised from this event goes to support the NSPCC.

We won't be able to have lunch all together as in previous years, but the children will still enjoy a special Christmas menu. Crackers will also be provided. (\*FPS)

## 'Elfy Treasure Hunt (\*FPS event)

On Saturday 19th December the plan is to hold a family treasure hunt around Christchurch, starting and finishing at the school Christmas tree. There will be different start times for each household and a small entry fee. More details to follow nearer the time.

## Christmas Carol Service - Live stream

On **Tuesday 15th December** at 1.45pm we are planning to live stream a traditional carol and readings service on youtube live, which will be recorded so parents can see it later if they wish.

Due to the restrictions relating to whole class singing, we will need to record this outside, so the viewing quality may be poor but the children will enjoy it! The children will need to wear traditional carol singing outfits (hats and scarves)! We would love to have some reindeer join us, if anybody knows how we might be able to source them please let us know!

Depending on the latest advice we may need to split this service into a KS1 and a KS2 event so we will share more details nearer the time.

## Christmas Parties and Visit from Father Christmas

Our KS1 and KS2 parties will go ahead as normal, with children allowed to wear mufti on their day. **KS1 is on Wednesday 16th December and KS2 is on Thursday 17th December.** We will *not* be sharing food at the parties this year and each class will organise their own separate traditional games and activities.

We hope Father Christmas will still be able to make an appearance.

## Secret Present Room (\*FPS)

It may be hard for children to get presents for adults in their family this year. FPS would like to help and are proposing a return of the popular Secret Present Room. Gifts will have been quarantined and will be handed out in class bubbles during the christmas party day.

More details will follow and how you can financially support this idea if you are able.

## Christmas Movie

**On the last day of term**, each class will show a Christmas movie. The class will vote between seasonal favourites such as Muppets Christmas Carol (my personal favorite), The Polar Express, Nativity, Arthur Christmas, Elf (PG) and Home Alone (PG). Permission slips via google forms will be needed if the chosen movie has a PG rating (KS2 only).

## And finally, Christmas Gifts for Staff

We know that many children like to show their appreciation by getting a small Christmas gift for the class teacher. Regrettably, this will not be possible this year. If you are keen to give something (and there is no expectation) then the staff have chosen the **Dorset Children's Foundation** as their chosen charity this Christmas. The money spent on a gift could be donated to this worthy cause instead. Some of our older children may remember Paddy's Purpose.

<https://thedcf.org/appeals/>

A Christmas card for your teacher can be delivered on Friday 4th December.

