

# Let it Shine!

## Priory School Christmas Plans 2021



The current Coronavirus outbreak in school has caused us to revisit our Christmas plans. This year we have a plan A and a plan B for each event, depending on the level of COVID risk at the time. This means everyone is clear about what we hope to put on, but also how our plans may change if necessary.

The plans are shared in date order.

### Wednesday 1st Dec - Panto 'The reluctant dragon'

The Image Theatre Company are performing live in the hall to the whole school during the morning.

Tickets are free (subsidised by FPS for the whole school).

<b>Plan A</b> Live performance in the hall	<b>Plan B</b> Streamed virtually into the classrooms
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### Friday 3rd Dec - Christmas Decoration Day

**Friday 3rd December** is our Christmas decoration day. Each child will make a Christmas tree decoration to take home at the end of term. We will also put the best ones on display in the hall.

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

### Friday 3rd Dec - FPS Lanterns and Carols (5 - 6:30pm)

**Friday 3rd December** was the date of our FPS Christmas Fayre. Instead, we are going to hold a special lantern procession. Starting in the gardens by the Priory Church, we will walk back to school with our Christmas lanterns. We are going to ask the children to make their own lanterns at home (details to follow).

**Our strong preference is for children to use battery tea lights / LED lights.** If real candles are used, then the parents must take full responsibility for the safety of their child and those around them for the duration of the event.

Once in school, there will be a short time of collective carol singing. If possible, our choirs and ukulele groups will perform. Christmas refreshments will be available, COVID dependent.

This event is free, but there will be a charge for any refreshments.

<p><b>Plan A</b> This is an outdoor event, so it should be able to go ahead as planned.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> If community rates are exceptionally high, only the children/choirs will sing. Mask wearing and lateral flow testing before the event will be encouraged.</p>
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## Monday 6th December - **Christmas Postbox**

On Monday 6th December, the Christmas postbox will be in operation. Children can post cards for their friends in other classrooms (writing the full name and year group on the envelope). Our Year 6 prefects will be the posties this year.

<p><b>Plan A</b> The Christmas postal service will operate as normal, with Y6 children delivering cards to different classes.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> If rates are high, children will post their cards in a class sack by Friday 10th Dec. These will be quarantined and then handed out by the class teacher on party day.</p>
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## Tuesday 7th Dec (2 -3pm) & Wednesday 8th Dec (5:30 - 6:30pm) - **Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performance 'Jesus' Christmas Party'**

Year 1 and Year 2 are going to perform the 'Jesus' Christmas Party', a nativity musical. As is traditional at the Priory School, Year 2 take the lead and are given any speaking parts. Year 1 act in a supporting role and join in with the songs.

Rehearsals have already been affected by the outbreak and high levels of absence, so there may be more adult support during the performances than normal.

Tickets £1

There will also be a collection for our chosen Christmas charity, 'Save the children'.

*The innkeeper and his wife settle down to sleep after a hectic day, but a stream of visitors keep showing up, asking for Mary and Joseph. 'Round the back!' the innkeeper shouts, grumpily!*

*Eventually, desperate for sleep, he flies into a rage and goes to see what all the fuss is about: it sounds like some kind of party out in the stable! But as soon as he sees newborn baby Jesus, the innkeeper softens and joins in the celebration.*

<p><b>Plan A</b> A live performance in the hall on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening.</p> <p>Each child is allocated a maximum of 2 tickets, with 48 hour priority booking for Year 2. This means we can keep audience numbers in line with our risk assessment.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> Our plan A is fairly robust, but should Government guidance change then the Tuesday afternoon performance will be broadcast live (and recorded) to parents via a youtube link.</p>
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## Friday 10th December - **Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day**

On **Friday 10th 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. **This is our main charity event over Christmas and money raised goes to support Save the Children.**

We won't be able to have lunch all together, but the children will still enjoy a special Christmas menu. This needs to be ordered in the usual way by Scopay.

<p><b>Plan A</b> x2 year groups eating in the hall at the same time.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> Outbreak year groups will need to eat separately in the classroom.</p>
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## Tuesday 14th December (10am) - **Dolphins, Year 1 & 2 Nativity Service**

We have replanned our Christmas services to minimise the risk, in the hope that they can go ahead regardless of the COVID rates. The infant service is now in the morning and the juniors in the evening.

The Infant service will be a DIY nativity service at the Priory Church. We would like all the children to come to school dressed as a character from the Christmas story (Mary and Joseph not Elf). The service will involve a number of songs (from the Year 1 and 2 performance) and carols from Reception. We expect it to last 30 minutes.

This is a free event.

<p><b>Plan A</b> Unticketed event, meaning parents and grandparents are welcome.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> 2 tickets per household to limit numbers, costing the nominal amount of £1. Mask wearing &amp; lateral flow testing beforehand encouraged.</p> <p>Our plan A is robust but in extreme circumstances outbreak year groups may be unable to attend as the service involves singing and close contact with others.</p>
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## Tuesday 14th December (6:30 - 7:30pm) - **KS2 Carol Service**

Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will rehearse the carol service on Tuesday afternoon, ready for the evening. All children in those year groups will be expected to attend and wear smart school uniform.

The format of the service will be a mixture of readings and carols. The children in the 'junior' and 'senior' choir will perform (and this means choir members in Y2 should attend). The service will finish with a new tradition; candlelight prayers. It is expected to last no longer than 60 minutes.

Tickets cost £1

<p><b>Plan A</b> 3 tickets per household.</p>	<p><b>Plan B</b> 2 tickets per household to limit numbers. Mask wearing.</p> <p>Our plan A is robust but in extreme circumstances outbreak year groups may be unable to attend as the service involves singing and close contact with others.</p>
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## Wednesday 15th Dec - **Dolphins, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party and Visit from Father Christmas**

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 on his Santa float and that the magical 'Secret Present Room'\* will be open.

## Thursday 16th Dec - **KS2 Christmas Party**

We will *not* be sharing food at the parties this year. It is hoped that each class will be able to rotate between different party rooms hosted by the class teachers, but this is COVID dependent.

KS2 will also be able to visit the 'Secret Present Room'\* today.

## **FPS Secret Present Room**

FPS are planning the return of the hugely popular Secret Present Room. Gifts will have been quarantined and will be handed out during the Christmas party day.

More details will follow and how you can financially support this.

## FPS Christmas Virtual Raffle

FPS are also planning the return of the hugely popular 'Virtual Raffle'. Raffle tickets and a list of prizes will be available nearer the time. The date of the online 'Grand Draw' is to be confirmed.

## Friday 17th Dec - Toy morning and Christmas Movie

**On the last day of term**, children are allowed to bring in toys and games from home to play.

In the afternoon, each class will watch a Christmas movie. The class will vote between seasonal favourites such as Muppets Christmas Carol (my personal favorite), The Polar Express, Nativity, Arthur Christmas etc. Permission slips via google forms will be needed if the chosen movie has a PG rating e.g. Home Alone (KS2 only).

At this stage we are not planning to do our traditional Christmas singalong, but we will review this nearer the time.

## Friday 17th Dec - End of Term 3:15pm

There has been some confusion about the finishing time on the last day of term. I apologise for this as it used to be the case that we finished at lunchtime, because we expected children to attend the evening carol service. We have received guidance from the Diocese, DfE and the Local Authority, that schools should not finish early at the end of term. We have been trying to signpost this change for a number of years.

School will remain open until 3:15pm as usual on Friday 17th December. School will also remain open until 3:15pm at the end of Spring term.

**At the end of the summer term, there will always be an early finish (after lunchtime) to allow teachers time to move classrooms ready for September.**

