



Trust Perseverance Respect Forgiveness Friendship Compassion Truthfulness

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Available online at [www.rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.rackenford-primary.devon.sch.uk) and via subscription

Dear Families

I wanted to thank you all so much for all your support this term. I am so impressed and proud that RPS has not had one single case of CoVid-19. One of the few schools in Devon to have not reported any CoVid-19 cases, especially when we know that many schools in Tiverton have had to close some of their bubbles. This is a true testament to you all, our community, the children, and staff for enabling this to happen. It hasn't been easy, keeping to our risk assessment procedures, working in bubbles, the gates, staggered starts, limiting bringing things into school, and much more. A massive thank you to you all for all the effort you have made to ensure that you are keeping yourselves and your families safe when at home and when you are out and about, and at school. We really appreciate all that you have done to ensure we are all safe and Covid-19 free. I am hopeful that over the coming months we may be able to begin to get back to how we were, as we are missing you all so much.

Can you believe it is nearly Christmas? We are busy in school with our Christmas preparations and celebrations. I wanted to share with you some things which will be happening over the coming days.

### **Christmas crafts morning (Bubble 2 Tuesday 8th December and Bubble 1 Thursday 10th December)**

Children will be making their Christingles, Christmas card and Christmas decorations which they will take home the same day. Children, please remember to bring in a large orange on the day.

### **Christmas Jumper day Friday 11th December**

**Class Christmas performances** - The performances will be shared via Class Dojo

Class R: The Christmas nativity

Class 1: Singing Little Donkey

Class 2: Performance poetry

Class 3: Retelling of the Christmas Story

### **Last day of term, 16th December**

Christmas lunch followed by a Christmas movie (Children may bring in their own popcorn, etc to enjoy with the movie)

### **Christingle service**

Sunday 13th December

From January we will be having weekly Celebration Assemblies in our bubbles. These will be filmed and shared on Class Dojo.

## PTFA Christmas Treat Box

Each box is £6 and will contain:

4x Cupcakes

3x Christmas Gingerbread shapes

2x Caramel Slices

4x chocolate snowmen to drop in your hot chocolate

Pre-orders are welcome please by Monday 7th December to [ptfarackenford@gmail.com](mailto:ptfarackenford@gmail.com) or Cheryl on 07855827890

There will be 2 collection dates Friday 11th December and Wednesday 16th December, we will also have a number of boxes available on the day (please state day preferred when pre-ordering).

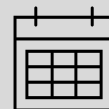
Collection will be from the tennis court between 3-15 and 4pm each day, we ask that social distancing is maintained.

If your child travels on the school bus just let us know when you order and we will get the box to them safely for travel home.

Vegetarian swap available on the snowmen-just let us know.



## Dates



**8 December**

Christingles

**11 December**

Flu Vaccination

Christmas Jumper Day

**13 December**

Christingle Service

**W/C 14 December**

Snapshots sent home

**16 December**

Christmas Dinner

Last Day Autumn Term

**04 January**

First Day of Spring Term

## Awards



**Learning Leaves**

Class R - Helena

Class 1 - Millie

Class 2 - Lexi

Class 3 - Lydia

**House Point**

Class R – Rupert

Class 1 – Buck

Class 2 – Betsy & James

Class 3 – Michaela

Ella will be giving the children in years 2 – 6 ukulele lessons, using the class set of ukuleles funded by our PTFA. They had a session today and will also do so next Tuesday. This will be a fun introduction based around a Christmas song. Then in January we hope some more small group lessons will build on the December sessions and the children will learn more about the instrument, the different strings and continue to learn songs.

The Ukulele is a great string instrument for children, there are only four strings and the way it is tuned enables the children to play some one finger chords very quickly.



## Christmas Lunch

If you would like to book your child in for a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 16th December, then please can you confirm this by email so we can let Jane, our cook know dinner numbers in advance. Thank you.

### Menu

Main – Roast Turkey with trimmings  
Vegetarian – Homity Pie  
Dessert – Ice-cream

## School Dinner Debt

Please could all parents clear any debts on your child's school dinner account by the end of term. You should have received your pupils outstanding balance by email last week. Payments by cash or Cheque (Payable to Devon County Council please)

## Little Angels



‘A child’s mental health is just as important as their physical health and deserves the same quality of support’ – Kate Middleton

## Flu Vaccination

Next Friday, pupils who you have consented to – will be having their flu vaccination.

We have not had confirmation of the time they will arrive however it is usually in the morning. If your child is a Flexi pupil then they are welcome to come in for the day or morning. Once we know the timings, we will let flexi families know.

If you are still yet to register, please visit <https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon> by Tuesday 8th December.



Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope.

Rackenford C of E Primary children will be making their annual Christingle on **Tuesday 8th December**. Please can your child bring into school a large orange on that day so they can make their own Christingle. They will bring it home with them that afternoon.

As we cannot hold our own Christingle service this year, I hope that many of you will join us at the Children's Society National Christingle service on Sunday 13th December at 9am, this will be streamed on the Church of England's website, Facebook and YouTube channels.

Register your interest at [The Children's Society | Attend the National Christingle](#) to join in and share the light with the whole country.

## Help us to decorate the Christmas tree in Rackenford in an eco-friendly way!

We will switch the lights on the tree from the 13<sup>th</sup> December

You will be able to purchase a star to fundraise for the PTFA to write a Christmas message and hang it on the tree! More information in the next newsletter



Create your own Christmas decoration made from recycled or natural object and drop it in the plastic box at the bottom of tree in front of the Tennis Court before the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, please make it waterproof!





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## Who says COVID 19 has to suck all the joy out of Christmas?

In Tiverton some of the churches have got together to produce a virtual advent calendar that anyone and everyone can access. It features short 2-3 minute videos about different aspects of Christmas. There are fun facts like how Christmas pudding was invented? How reindeer keep in touch with each other in a blizzard, and why there are so many robins on Christmas cards! There's even some ideas for activities and craft.

It has been carefully created so that primary schools can use it....to use in place of assemblies that aren't possible at this time. Teachers will be able to access the videos directly from their classrooms so no one has to miss out.

But it's not just for children. Each day a different numbered door will be posted online so that anyone of any age can enjoy and anticipate the festive season. It's a fun, engaging, and inspiring way for everyone in the local area to celebrate together.

For extra puzzle fun, each day's door has been photographed from around Tiverton.....but can you guess where they are? A pat on the back and award yourself an extra mince pie if you can!

The Tiverton Online Advent Calendar is completely free to use.....a Christmas gift to the Town, local villages and community.

The Calendar can be found online at  
<https://tivertonadventcalendar.online/videos>