



Milborne Message 04.12.20

Message from Sharon Hunt!

Dear Parents,

Some of you may have noticed we have a new member of staff. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to, and to welcome **Mrs Vanessa Strong**. Mrs Strong joins as a cook at lunchtimes, but has also been working with groups to help them with their learning.

Contact tracing:

It looks likely that schools will need to be involved in contact tracing in the 1st week of the holiday up to 24th December as children may have had contact up to 18th December. We are making sure that bubble contact is tight and as small a number as possible. The last thing we want to do is to have to contact you, in effect changing your Christmas plans and if we do, we want the fewest number possible impacted by it. Should you need to contact the school during the holiday period to inform us of a positive case or close contact, please email me directly on s.hunt@milborne.dorset.sch.uk and please do not use eschools or other forms of communication. I will check this account daily.

Food over Christmas:

We are expecting a final decision on how this will look in the next day or two and will let you know then, but my understanding is that it is the intention for families in receipt of free school meals to be able to access food vouchers or food parcels, but I am not yet sure how they will be accessed and who exactly will be able to access them. Please watch this space for further information.

Reading:

We are now able to share the school reading plan with you. Please find it attached. This is a really important document as it should help you to support your child's reading development. There are some helpful tips and links to books and stories so please do print it off and keep for reference. We hope that you will find this a useful resource and source of information. Christmas is a great opportunity to give a book for Christmas and share time reading together as the evenings or darker. It is such a magical time for children and stories together can take them to another place.



Trauma Informed Schools:

We had some more TIS training this week for all staff and as always, it was really helpful. I will be starting to post videos on here and on Tapestry and possibly links on here too over the coming weeks.

This is the first one which shows how the brain's development is altered from trauma and how those changes can impact behaviour, often because of misreading signals, expressions and actions.

[Childhood Trauma and the Brain | UK Trauma Council](#)

[zoom_0.mp4](#)

School Council: The next School Council event is 'Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of 'Save the Children'. We will be wearing our jumpers on **Wednesday the 16th December**. The link to our fundraising page is: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200002022>

Healthy snacks: We are a healthy school and the policy has always been to have healthy snacks and lunch boxes. Staff are noticing an increase in chocolates and bars. We know that unhealthy snacks like these give children a sugar rush and effect concentration and ability to learn and to manage their emotions.

Please can you ensure snacks are healthy as well as **NUT Free**.

Class Christmas Cards:

There will be a post box outside the main entrance for all cards to be 'posted' into classes from Monday, if your child would like to give their friends a card this year. As with Covid regulations, the cards will then be 'left' for 72 hours and then handed out to the children on Wednesday 16th afternoon. Please could all cards be posted by Friday 11th, to allow sufficient time.

Christmas Presents:

Many of you have been asking about what Christmas Gifts you could get for the classroom as we did last year. As a staff we thought about what we would like to do and came up with two options. We are aware that Christmas can be a very difficult time for many, and especially so this year. We are not expecting any gifts at all, but if you did one to do something then we have a couple of ideas below:

- We would like to suggest a reverse advent calendar, whereby children bring in items (decorations, treats, Christmas cake, puddings, mince pies etc) and staff will make these up into a Christmas hamper or hampers for local people bringing an extra smile to families. Items can be brought in from Monday and left in the reception area in the box.
- The other option is a book for the classroom as Reading is such a priority for us this year and books are so expensive but so very important.

Christmas Activities:

Whilst things are very different this year, we are trying hard to keep Christmas as usual where we can but also want to catch up on learning missed and to rebuild those learning characteristics and habits. Christmas typically is often a time that many of our children find very difficult due to the change in routine and lack of structure to the day. For many, therefore anxiety and stress has been reduced at this time in school, so it's not all bad. There are, however, a few surprises being planned to bring joy and delight to both you and your children.

Hope you have a lovely weekend. Keep reading!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Hunt".

Sharon Hunt