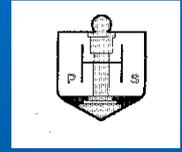


Houston Primary School

'Nurturing the Hearts and Minds of the Future'



Newsletter November 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

I write to update you on the current staffing position and to share with you how we at Houston Primary plan to celebrate Christmas 2020.

Today sees the return of Miss Lorraine Wilson, Principal Teacher, from her maternity leave. Little Luciano is already 1 year old and is thriving. Miss Wilson will join the P1 team as Mrs Susan McGeoch gets ready to leave to have her first child. (Her last day is on Friday.)

At present, 3 staff members remain on maternity leave. They will start to return to work in the new year just in time for when our next group of pregnant ladies start to leave us; Miss Mhairi McCafferty P3A, Miss Rona Adam P6A, Miss Mhari McGowan P6/5 and Mrs Ruth Gillen NCCT. Yes...6 Houston babies on the way and yes, there's a set of twins in the count!

We have also said goodbye to Mrs Suzanne Sime this term. She has left Houston Primary and left the country. The Sime family moved to England, quietly, at Mrs Sime's request. Suzanne has been a staff member at Houston for approximately 16 years. We have seen her marry, have her 3 babies and we have now waved her off as the family start their next exciting chapter in Essex. We sent her on her

way with our love and best wishes.



Mrs Jean Church has decided that it is time for her to retire. Mrs Church has worked as an Additional Support Needs Auxillary in Houston Nursery and School for over 13 years. Her decision to retire is filled with mixed emotions. She will be greatly missed by all at the school and we wish her well as she makes plans for the years ahead at a more relaxed pace.

Christmas 2020 will not see all the usual highlights take place in school and ELCC, but instead of focussing on all the things we cannot do due to COVID restrictions, we are going to focus on what **can** be done!



1. The children will have a Christmas Party (class party dates will be communicated via Google Classroom for each class – children should come to school in their party clothes that day.)
2. A Christmas lunch will be served on 10th December. (Same lunchtime arrangements will remain in place. Order forms have been issued today in your child's schoolbag. Please note orders to be returned to school by Tuesday 1 December. No late orders can be processed after this date)

3. Christmas Jumper Day – 11th December (wear something festive to raise money for St Vincent's Hospice. £1 donation for Charity payable on the day).
4. The children will enjoy a traditional Pantomime – online.
5. Pupil Council will lead an appeal for a donation of gifts to support local children at Christmas time. (More details to follow.)

We ask for your support to ensure your child does not bring Christmas cards into school to pass out to friends and staff. Instead, Class teachers will be helping the children learn about the tradition of sending Christmas wishes and together they will find alternative ways for them to express and share their Christmas wishes and messages with their friends.

Very many of the usual Christmas craft activities will go ahead as normal and at present the children are working on a whole school effort which will be shared with you all via Google Sites (accessed via Google Classroom) from 10th December. At a time of the year when the children normally perform for you and each other, the aim of this whole school effort is to come together and share our 'Countdown to Christmas 2020'. The classes will all be doing something different, which will be a surprise! If your child does not have media permissions and you wish to review this arrangement for the 'Countdown to Christmas 2020', please call the office, otherwise we will follow the instructions you have given previously.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Murray.

Head Teacher

