



## HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER 14

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020



### EXAMS

In the very early hours of Thursday morning, the Secretary State for Education made a series of announcements with regards to schools and, in particular, tests and exams.

In short, in relation to primary schools:

The additional autumn term (Year 2) phonics check will go ahead this term. *Parents of the children in Year 2 will be informed of their child's test result at the beginning of January.* The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check at the end of the school year (June 2021) will also proceed, as planned.

Key stage one assessment in reading, writing and maths will now be by teacher assessment only. *The tests used to inform teacher assessment at key stage one will now be non-statutory, and no new key stage one tests will be made available in 2021.*

There will be no teacher assessment of science in 2021 at either key stage one or key stage two.

The multiplication tables check (Year 4) will also be non-statutory, so it does not have to be administered by schools in 2021.

The grammar, punctuation and spelling test at key stage two will also be non-statutory, so it does not have to be administered in 2021. This means that the children in Year 6 – at the end of key stage two – will only 'sit' tests in reading and mathematics. *These can now be administered over a two week window rather than on three consecutive days.* The children will also receive a teacher assessment in writing.

As a result of these changes, there will be no school-level data from tests, exams and assessments published on performance tables for key stage two. Instead, the only school-level information that will be published for primary schools will be on attendance (but this will be supported with contextual information and caveats).

All of this is in recognition that it would be unfair to test children on curriculum content that they may not have had time to catch up on due to the school closures from March until September.

In addition to this, Routine (section 5) Ofsted inspections of all schools remain suspended for the whole of the spring term at least; and no further section 8 'interim visits' will take place (as has occurred during this term).

From January 2021, Ofsted will only undertake section 8 monitoring inspections in some schools, such as the following:

- Inadequate schools (schools in special measures or serious weaknesses)

- Schools judged as 'requires improvement' at two consecutive section 5 inspections

- A small number of schools judged as 'requires improvement' at their most recent section 5 inspection that are considered to be vulnerable.

We have been told that these monitoring visits will take account of the last inspection report. But the focus of the monitoring visits will be to support improvement to becoming a 'good' school, rather than making a judgement as to whether the school is taking effective action against the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection.

### WONDE Christmas Vouchers (for pupils entitled to Free School Meals)



As part of Halton's allocation of the COVID Winter Grant Scheme, the decision has been made by the local authority to allocate all children on Free School Meals (or those identified as being vulnerable) a voucher for £15.00 per week during the Christmas period.

These vouchers can only be accessed through a company called WONDE (rather than Edenred – for those who used this service over the period of the school closures and over the summer holidays).

We are still awaiting details of how to register all of the families at our school who will be eligible to take part in this scheme; and will share this with you as soon as we receive these details.

If you feel that your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please make an application click on the following link: <https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>, sending an email to [RutlandHouseSharedAdminTeam@halton.gov.uk](mailto:RutlandHouseSharedAdminTeam@halton.gov.uk) (informing them that you have a child who attends Halton Lodge Primary School and you wish to check if they are eligible for free school meals) or by telephoning 0151 511 7188.



If your child uses a bicycle or a scooter to get to school, could you please remind them that they must get off their bike (or scooter) as they enter the main gates and to walk with this to the bike shed – so that they do not pose a threat or danger to the other children and adults who are on the school premises and waiting at the front of the school building. Thank you!



## Flu Vaccinations

The School Vaccination Team returned to our school this week to administer the flu vaccine to those children who were not in school when they last visited our school (earlier this term).

If there are any families who would still like to take up the flu vaccine for their child – and wish to do so – the nurses will be holding a flu vaccination session at The Grangeway Centre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This will be by appointment only.

To make an appointment, please telephone: Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation trust on 0151 495 5066



## Reminder: Christmas Cards (and Secret Mission)

There are two postal delivery days for any pupils who would like to send Christmas Cards to other children in school:

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Thank you too for those who have already responded to the Secret Mission that was sent out earlier this week. If you get a chance to complete this over the weekend – and return these to school early next week – that would be fantastic!



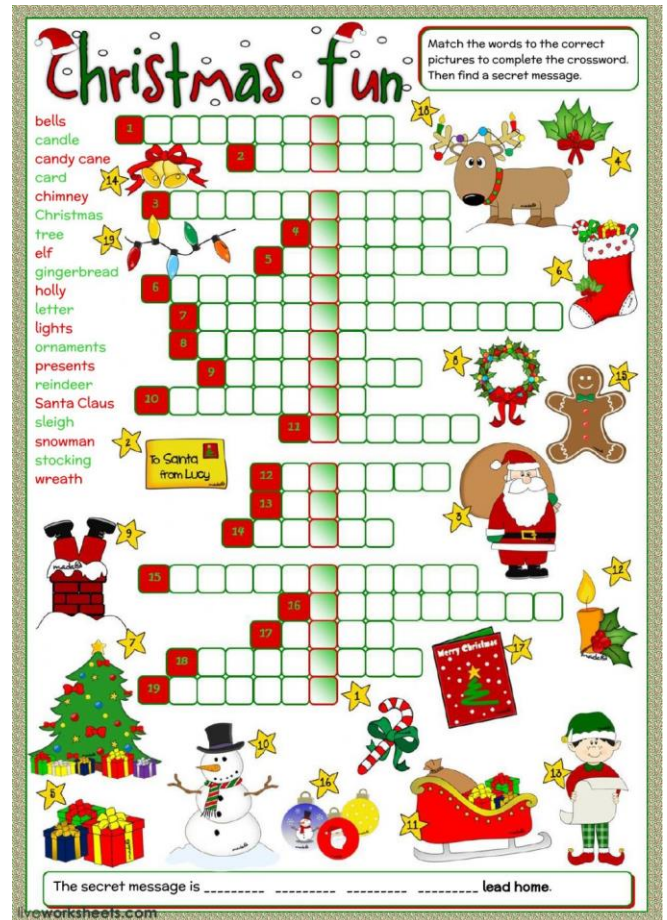
Attendance at school is always important. However, the children in Reception Class, Year 1, The Fawns and Year 2 will be recording their Christmas nativity next week, so please make sure – provided they are fit and well – that they are in school every day next week.

**Reminder: On the final day of term – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – we will be closing at:**

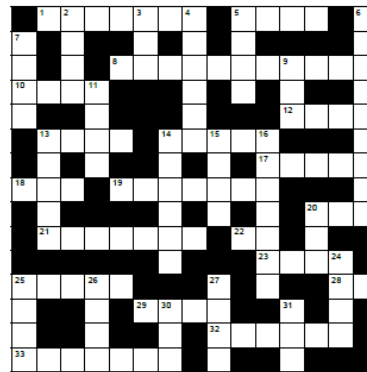
**1:30pm for the children who start school at 8:40am (Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6)**

**1:45pm for the children who start school at 8:55am (Reception, The Fawns, Year 3 and Year 5)**

The children will exit the school from their usual entrance/exit point.



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Traditional Christmas dessert (7)
- 5 We \_\_\_\_ You A Merry Christmas (Christmas carol) (4)
- 8 You put them up, and then you take them down. (11)
- 10 I'm going to \_\_\_\_ in the church choir this Christmas (4)
- 12 Kids often \_\_\_\_ with excitement when they open their presents (4)
- 13 You do this with 19 across (4)
- 14 Popular (but boring) Christmas gift (5)
- 17 The Christmas star seen by 33 across? (5)
- 18 Listening to Christmas carols always makes me \_\_\_\_ (3)
- 19 Hollow cardboard tube covered with coloured paper which goes BANG! (7)
- 20 The day before Christmas (or New Year) (3)
- 21 Chocolate sponge cake served at Christmas (4,3)
- 22 What are you planning to \_\_\_\_ for Christmas? (2)
- 23 Present (4)
- 25 Another name for Father Christmas (5)
- 28 There's usually one in a nativity scene (2)
- 29 What children send to Father Christmas (4)
- 32 Winged messengers from heaven (6)
- 33 They brought gifts for the baby Jesus (4,3)

### Down

- 2 When You Wish \_\_\_\_ A Star (Disney song) (4)
- 3 'Christmas On \_\_\_\_' is my favourite show (3)
- 4 Santa's (department store) cave (6)
- 5 What you do with presents before giving them to people (4)
- 6 People kiss under it at Christmas (9)
- 7 We always go to midnight \_\_\_\_ on Christmas Eve (4)
- 9 Dark green climbing plant associated with Christmas (3)
- 11 One of the gifts brought by 33 across (4)
- 13 The office \_\_\_\_ is a Christmas ritual for many UK companies (5)
- 14 Christmas is the \_\_\_\_ of goodwill (6)
- 15 You must give me your Christmas \_\_\_\_ recipe (4)
- 16 Protagonist of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens (7)
- 20 One of Santa's helpers (3)
- 24 What children mostly get for Christmas (4)
- 25 Essential ingredient for a white Christmas (4)
- 26 Pine, fir, or artificial? (4)
- 27 One is said to have appeared over the birthplace of Jesus. (4)
- 30 There was no room here for Mary and Joseph (3)
- 31 Rudolph The \_\_\_\_-Nosed Reindeer (Christmas song) (3)