



It's Chrriiissstmaaassss!



Everyone at Warstones Primary School wishes all our families and friends a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy (Covid free) New Year!

Christmas Jumper Day raised £261 for Save the Children—thank you all so much!  
Nativities and Christmas productions. Do look out for the wonderful video from Year 2 for their Christmas celebration on our Facebook page. Early Years video will be on Tapestry from 15th December and Year 1 was sent out last Friday 11th December. A wonderful way to start Christmas and can be viewed again and again!

School closes on Friday 18th December at the usual times.

We return on **Tuesday 5th January for children** (INSET day on 4th January so no children in school please). We will be continuing with our staggered times as per this term.  
Thank you.



The children made Christmas baubles for the trees this year. Each one holds a wish for the future. We are so proud of all your children for trying their best when it is hard, their perseverance and resilience during this difficult time and for making us smile every day.



PE Next Half Term (January 2020 Spring 1)					
Class	Indoor PE	Games	Class	Indoor PE	Games
Reception	Thursday (indoor or outdoor dependant on weather)		3EM 3RF	Friday Thursday	Wednesday Wednesday
1JL 1EW	Monday Tuesday	Friday Friday	Year 4	Thursday	<i>Spring 2</i>
2AS 2CW	Wednesday Thursday	<i>Spring 2</i>	Year 5	Tuesday	Friday
			Year 6	Monday	<i>Spring 2</i>

## Our luck ran out!

Even after the stupendous efforts made by parents, children and staff to keep the wretched virus away, we have had to isolate our Y5. However, with the new guidance that came out Friday afternoon, they had permission from Public Health to return from Tuesday 15th. Hurray!

Thank you everyone for supporting the school so valiantly, putting up with my nagging and for doing the best we all could to keep everyone safe in our community. But it is not over yet. Although we have a few days over Christmas to meet with family, that may well impact on next term. The vaccine is here but the roll out and the protection we hope it will give, will take several months to impact on our now day to day routines.

It has been a long pandemic, a long year and with so many changes to what was normal practice in school, it has been a long and difficult term for children, parents and staff alike. The children have been *magnificent!* I am constantly amazed at how they adapt to new routines, cope with the new way of teaching and want to learn. As we come to end of term, it is understandable that tempers may start to fray, patience be exhausted and worries to be exasperated—for us all—not helped by us not being unable to have the day to day opportunities to touch base with parents to put minds at rest and solve small problems before they become large ones. As we have tried to bring some of the normal Christmas festivities to the school day within the restrictions we have, we have seen some children struggling with their behaviour as the routines change, teaching is less formal and tiredness is setting in.

We do a lot at school about how to deal with upsets, reminding children to talk to an adult rather than respond in kind when something goes wrong, to stay calm and talk things through, to listen to both sides of a problem and find a solution. We think of the ABC—Antecedent, Behaviour, Consequence—what happened before the incident that led to it, what was the incident, and what happened because of it. This can lead to a discussion about how it could have been avoided, or how it could have been stopped or how it did not need to get any worse.

We do understand that as parents, we also can get upset and angry when our children tell us things that has happened at school and it can help us to have this kind of conversation with our child before we speak to the teacher. It is also helpful to demonstrate to our children how we deal with things when we are not happy, the need to stay calm and talk things through. If you feel there is a need to talk with school about an issue, please use the key stage e mails or phone school and we can set up phone conversations with staff as necessary. Catching staff to speak to them on the door at the beginning and end of day is not possible with the need for everyone to keep moving, nor is it always appropriate when we can not invite you in to discuss things in private or away from children. We are a team working with you to support your children, we want the best for them as you do and we too want them to succeed. School is a different environment to home —being part of a large class rather than a smaller family unit. The social skills needed to get along with others is a big part of their learning at primary schools and these do not always come easily, especially when they are young. It is good to remember the 'Be Kind' message, to be patient and to remember that staff, parents and children, all deserve to be spoken to with consideration, respect and understanding.

Please do e mail the school should your child test positive over the first weekend after the holidays as we will still need to inform others in that bubble to isolate over the Christmas period. Although there is a relaxation of the restrictions over Christmas, we are still being asked to keep to three households only. If we are to avoid sending bubbles home in the new term, we need to stick to the Government guidelines please.