



Sunningwell Primary School

COVID UPDATE – PLEASE READ

Dear Parents/Carers

Our term finishes today at 2.00pm.

A very thoughtful parent sent me a handmade card this Christmas with the following quote from a wonderful book.

“What’s the best thing you’ve learned about storms?”

“That they end.” said the horse

From ‘The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse’ by Charlie Mackesy. If you don’t already own this book, I would put it on your Christmas list and share it with your children.

Since March it has felt like we have been going through a storm and I know for many this has been a very difficult time. We are not through the storm yet but there are glimmers of light ahead. We must hold on to hope for ourselves and our children. Here at Sunningwell we have been very fortunate that our school has not had to close any classes this term and that children could come to school and enjoy the routine of learning and playing during this difficult time. Thanks to the monumental efforts of the staff the children have enjoyed many of the normal Sunningwell Christmas experiences even if they have been modified for this very unusual time.

As I write this, we await details of which tier our county will be in, and this may change some of the plans that you have for Christmas. We know that this is not going to be the Christmas that many of us would have wished for. In the past few hours, the news has reported that some of our school community will not be able to travel to see relatives and this is deeply upsetting.

We have been blessed to spend time with your wonderful children this term and hope that you will enjoy their company when you are unable to be with others. Your children may want to spend time online over the holiday but please find time to read with them, to sit down and have a meal with them, to walk, talk and play games with them.

On a practical note, if your child(ren) test positive for COVID-19 between now and 23rd December it is very important that you notify the school as we will have to contact Public Health and will have to instruct others to self-isolate. We would not want children who could possibly have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 to then visit relatives and possibly spread the virus.

Please use this email address and not the normal office address.

Santa.3242@sunningwell.oxon.sch.uk.

This email address is only to be used until 23rd December and if you need to leave a message for the school after this time, please use the normal office.3242@sunningwell.oxon.sch.uk. The school office will be closed until 5th January. Should there be any school closures during the first week of January we will email via ParentMail on Monday 4th January. If your child tests positive, between 24 December and 4th January, please email the school office address. It is important that we have this information so that we can consult with public health and be advised what decision we may need to make.

Finally, I hope that the message of joy which is given to us in the story of Christ's birth brings comfort to you at this time. Many churches, like St Leonard's in Sunningwell, have made special efforts to be open for people to visit. Regardless of your personal beliefs you would be welcome to seek a moments peace. You can also contact Rev Rob and the team on <https://www.rskbenefice.org/>

Merry Christmas to you all.
Anita Leech