



## Newsletter – November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**I continue to be amazed by our children's resilience to changes in school routine and continued enthusiasm for learning, during the pandemic and the extensive infrastructure work around school. I want to inform you about work going forward and future Christmas arrangements.**

Yours sincerely,

*Sae Dary* Headteacher

### Site Infrastructure Work

All our building work, thus far, is currently running to plan. We had the school kitchen refurbished during half term, with many new appliances being installed. One significant item to report on, is the extraction unit. This will now ensure the steam will be efficiently extracted so not setting off the fire alarm, in turn, meaning staff and children do not have lessons disrupted to evacuate the building unnecessarily. A new heated servery is due to be installed during our Christmas break.

Drainage work has commenced, with some work left to complete during the Christmas break or February half term whilst children are off site.

Finally, the new heating system is now being installed. This is a huge undertaking and the workers from T Clarke, who have been assigned to work on site for us, are amazing. We are at the stage of one class at a time having to relocate to the hall for their learning. So far, Y5, Y3, Y6 and Y1 have relocated to the hall. Teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure the children are safe and comfortable. The children that have used the hall all seemed to have enjoyed this unique experience. The duration for each class using the hall has been for one or two days. We still have a long way to go and it is anticipated that we will have the new system switched on and running in February 2021.

### Christmas Festivities

Christmas will sadly look very different in school this year due to both Covid-19 restrictions and the limitations the building work brings.

You will appreciate we cannot do our usual infant nativity or KS2 carol service as we are not mixing class 'bubbles' and our hall is being fully utilised by relocating classes. However, rest assured your children will experience a joyful Christmas at Ickleford Primary School this year.

**Cont.d overleaf.**

## Christmas Festivities cont.d

We have found a solution to classes enjoying Christmas lunch in their classrooms on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, followed by a class party with games and festivities (party food will not be required). On this day, children may wear a festive Christmas jumper if they want to.

The Market Theatre, who perform a live pantomime for us every year, are producing a recorded pantomime for schools this year. We will show this to all the children on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

All classes will be making a variety of Christmas crafts: Christmas cards, calendars and festive DT projects to name a few. These creative masterpieces will come home for you to enjoy at the end of the term.

## **Parent Consultations**

A huge thank you to those parents who agreed to being our 'guinea pigs' on Google Classroom to enable us to set up virtual parents consultations. Well done to those parents from Y5, Y3 and Reception, who have since logged in and managed to speak with their child's teacher so far. We will be rolling this out to all parents over the next 2 weeks - please monitor your parent mail accounts to ensure successful booking and guidance with log in details for other year groups. Despite a couple of technical hitches, the platform has proved highly successful and staff have enjoyed being able to see you, albeit virtually.

