

18th December 2020



Good afternoon everyone,

Finding the words to write to Our Learning Family is hard this week. I have nothing but admiration for all the staff here, who despite their own anxiety and exhaustion, have found it within themselves to ensure the pupils have had some kind of normality for Christmas in school including a wonderful online Christmas concert and a scrumptious Christmas Dinner.

My heart goes out to our Year 3 and 4 children, however yet again, our teachers and parents have ensured some great 'festive' learning has been happening at home (see our Twitter). I'm sure you will also join me in wishing a speedy recovery to those in this bubble who have received a positive Covid-19 test.

Our PTFA has also been amazing - organising a special message and present to the children from Father Christmas himself! The Elf competition was a particular highlight this week that has brought such cheer to all involved.

The generosity of the Coton Green Learning Family was once again shown with £273 raised for Save the Children from our Christmas Jumper Day. This adds to the £517 raised for Children in Need.

It is normally this time that I reflect upon the last year but I cannot begin to sum up the events as well as a colleague Michael Tidd (Headteacher East Preston Junior School in West Sussex) who published the following open letter. I think this encapsulates our thoughts on the challenges that we have all faced together so I thought I'd share this with you:

As we approach the end of the calendar year, tradition would have it that heads write a letter thanking parents for their support in general, and also for any generous gifts given to staff to celebrate Christmas.

This year, we owe you our thanks considerably more than ever, so please let me offer it now.

We always recognise that, in sending your children to our school, you are putting great trust in us, both to care for and to educate them. This year, this couldn't be more true. So thank you for continuing to trust in us through this tumultuous time, particularly when there must have been times of real worry for you, as there have been for all of us.

Coronavirus: Thank you for your tolerance

Thank you for your patience at the start of this whole business, when we all found out that schools would be closing just days later. We had a challenge on our hands working out what school closure would look like, but we were also very aware that every delay in us sharing information with you was adding to the challenges you faced in changing work plans and arranging childcare.

Thank you to those of you who continued to serve in frontline roles, while entrusting your children to our care. You must have worried that you were putting them at risk to allow you to go to work; know that we were grateful both for your faith and your contribution to tackling the pandemic in its most worrying phase.

Thank you, too, to those of you who, with little warning, made arrangements to keep your children at home. Very few school teachers would opt to home-educate their own children: we know what a challenge that is. Thank you for your tolerance while we sorted out remote learning, tried to balance the needs of everyone, whether enthusiastic for more work or struggling to access any.

Thank you for listening to our messages, reading our emails, and watching our videos, while all around us was contradictory information in the press and on social media.

Often, we found out about big announcements at the same time as you, watching the prime minister and his experts on the evening broadcasts. Too often we then had to wait on detail to help us – and you – to understand what it meant in practice.

'I'm sorry you were disappointed'

To those who were confused by too much communication, or disappointed with the decisions we took, we apologise. As always with schools – and any organisation – sometimes we get things wrong. On this occasion, the urgency with which we had to make decisions meant that sometimes we had to go back and change decisions. Hopefully, each change improved things for you and your children, but it was another adaptation to have to make, all the same.

Thank you for all your support in returning the children to school in September. Every headteacher in the land worried in late August as we prepared classrooms, corridors, playgrounds and dining halls for the return of the pupils, but we also relied on your support to make it all work.

And, lastly, thank you for working with us through these straitened months, without traditional events like welcome meetings, parents' evenings or even the school nativity.

In some ways, it's felt harder than ever to be together as a school community but, in other ways, this period of change has highlighted the importance of working together as we do.

Hopefully, you'll agree that, throughout 2020, we've worked with you to provide your children with the safest, most enjoyable and most effective education possible. And we look forward to doing the same in 2021... (Michael Tidd)

I would like to remind everyone that school will start on January 5th and we will continue with the staggered starts and ends of the day. We are also unaffected as a Primary school as to the announcement made yesterday about mass testing in secondary schools and, if this is rolled out as intended to Primary Schools later next term we will contact you with full details.

We intend to enjoy the upcoming break refreshed and ready to continue to serve the Coton Green Learning Family.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas break. Be safe.

Merry Christmas and let's all hope for a better 2021.

Mr Osborne



Friday 18th December

Please be advised that school will close from lunchtime as per Mr Osborne's letter.

Monday 4th January 2021
INSET DAY – School Closed

Tuesday 5th January 2021
SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN AT YOUR CHILD'S ALLOTTED TIME

Why not log on to our school twitter account for a daily update of what is happening in school?

<https://twitter.com/GreenCoton>

School Virtual Tour

As we are not able to offer an open evening at the moment for new entrants for September 2021, we have decided to make a video 'Virtual Tour' of our school. This can be viewed by following a link on our twitter page here:

<https://twitter.com/GreenCoton/status/1334524106327420929?s=20> or through this link to youtube:

<https://youtu.be/2EMkBg7Yzrs> Please share to friends and family who are interested in joining our learning family. Many thanks to Mr Newton for putting this together and for all the staff and children who took part in such a professional production.

Mr Osborne

Christmas Jumper Day

Everyone looked fantastic in their jumpers!
Thank you once again for your support and kind donations for 'Save the Children'.

We have raised £273.00

Free Hygiene Products

The Hygiene bank has kindly donated a variety of products.

If interested, please contact school via email to arrange collection.

PTFA - Elf Competition!!

WINNERS

EYFS

1st Alfie P Mrs Evans
2nd Arry J Mrs Evans

Y1/2

1st Harry M Miss Dowsett
2nd Max W Mr Birch

Y3/4

1st Max O Mrs Smith
2nd Evie W Mrs Holbrook

Y5/6

1st Phoebe H Mrs Tanner
2nd Isabel H Mrs Tanner

Coton Green Primary School Terms Dates 2020/2021

Autumn Term 2020

Inset day: Tuesday 1st September (children are not in school) school focus

Term starts: Wednesday 2nd September

Inset day: Friday 23rd October (children are not in school) school focus

Half term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Inset day: Monday 30th November (children are not in school) ATLP focus

Term ends: Friday 18th December

Holiday: Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January

Spring Term 2021

Inset day: Monday 4th January (children are not in school) school focus

Term starts: Tuesday 5th January

Inset day: Friday 12th February (children are not in school) school focus

Half term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Inset day: Monday 15th March (children are not in school) ATLP focus

Term ends: Thursday 1st April

Holiday: Friday 2nd April - Friday 16th April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 4th April

Summer Term 2021

Term starts: Monday 19th April

Inset day: Friday 30th April (children are not in school) ATLP focus

May Day: Monday 3rd May

Half term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Inset day: Monday 5th July (children are not in school) school focus

Term ends: Wednesday 21st July

Holiday: Thursday 22nd July - Tuesday 31st August

*** Please remember school meals for KS2 now cost £2.35 per day ***

Please order your preferred meal choices using the menu below or collect one from your child's class.

Name		Class		
Week 2		Week Beginning 04.01.2021		
<i>Monday</i>	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Dough Balls	Sausage In a Roll (v)	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Cucumber Sticks Tray Bake
<i>Tuesday</i>	Beef Burrito	Quorn Nuggets (v) With Potato Wedges	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks Tray Bake
<i>Wednesday</i>	Roast Turkey with Mashed Potato and Seasonal Vegetables	Quorn Roast (v) Mashed Potato and Seasonal Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Cherry Tomatoes Tray Bake
<i>Thursday</i>	Chicken Mayo Wrap with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Bolognese Pasta Pot (v)	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Cucumber Sticks Tray Bake
<i>Friday</i>	Southern Fried Chicken Tasters and Chips	Soft Taco (V) and Chips	Jacket Potato with Assorted Fillings	Ham or Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks Tray Bake
Subject to availability				