



# BIDDICK PARENT WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week starting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Message from Miss Morris

### Christmas Present Appeal

We are proud to be supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal this year. The aim is for every child in our area to wake up to a toy on Christmas Day. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families in previous years and I hope that you will consider donating a toy this year to help those in need.

If you are able to support our appeal, your child can simply drop-off their donation with their Head of Year. The Salvation Army have a list of suggested donations which I have included below. Thank you for your support.

- **0-3 years** Dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles
- **3-5 years** Dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9 years** Educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs & family friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12 years** Games and toys, stationery, DVDs, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16 years** Books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

### Christmas Jumper Day



Students and staff will be sporting an impressive range of festive jumpers on Christmas Jumper Day which is being held on **Friday 10th December**. We ask that students make a voluntary contribution of £2.00 which goes to the vital work of Save the Children.

### Omicron Variant

In order to minimise the chances of any student or member of staff testing positive for Covid in the run up to Christmas, we have reluctantly decided to restrict mixing and year group events in the last week of term. We will still be celebrating Christmas with recorded performances by the school choir and bands; however, we will not hold in-person year group assemblies/Carol Service.

There has been so much disruption to learning over the last 18 months, that we remind parents and carers it is vital your child continues to attend until the end of term. The Academy will finish at 3:00pm as usual on Friday 17th December and **reopen to students on Wednesday 5th January 2022**. Tuesday 4th January is a teacher training day; students will also be able to take a lateral flow test on site on this day and we will send further information on this soon.

*Miss Morris*  
*Headteacher*

## Student Laptops

- During Covid-19 lockdown, we were allocated a number of laptops from the Department for Education.
- These devices were loaned to students who did not have a laptop or were perhaps only accessing their work via a mobile device.
- We still have a number of laptops available that we can loan out to students again.
- If your son/daughter does not have a laptop, or if they are currently completing work on a mobile device, then please contact Mrs Southwick on [southwick.k@biddickacademy.com](mailto:southwick.k@biddickacademy.com) or call 0191 5111600 so we can support you.

## Sunderland Parent/Carer Forum

- Parents and Carers of children and young people with Special Education/additional needs/disabilities in Sunderland are invited to join the Sunderland Parent/Carer Forum for a coffee and a buffet lunch on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10.30am – 1.30pm.**
- Booking is essential and you can do this by clicking the following link [Sunderland Parent/Carer Forum Lunch Booking](#)
- Any questions? Please contact the Sunderland Parent/Carer Forum on 07393129858 or email [spcfoffice@sunderlandpcf.co.uk](mailto:spcfoffice@sunderlandpcf.co.uk)

## Year 10 Parents Evening – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- Information to follow soon which will be sent directly to Parents and Carers of Year 10 students.