



IMPORTANT – we are closing 1 day early

Christmas closure has been brought forward to **Thursday 17th December** to maximise family, child and staff safety prior to Christmas. As many of you will have picked up, the Department for Education has strongly recommended that schools should close early for Christmas, making Thursday 17th December the last teaching day before the school holidays.

This is to allow enough time for any positive coronavirus cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for any contacts in the school to be traced and informed, before we are released from tier restrictions and form “Christmas bubbles” with our families. This supports our main priority - to keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible.

School will reopen as normal on **Tuesday 5th January**. We are sorry that we are notifying you of this change very late and we appreciate that it may cause difficulty, however the Government only informed school of this on Wednesday – and we wanted to agree this at Governing Board level before telling you.

We do however need you to continue to do your bit to keep our school community safe in the run up to Christmas by continuing to alert us of positive COVID cases.

What do you need to do?

The Government has asked schools to play their part in continuing contact tracing if children or staff test positive within *six* days of school closing. This means that we do still ask all parents or staff to contact us if a child or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus and has developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. We will coordinate contact tracing during the Christmas period so if a child or staff member has a confirmed positive Coronavirus test between close of school and Wednesday 23rd December, we ask all parents to contact our office by email: **office@hoylecourt.bradford.sch.uk**

This email will be checked twice daily until the 23rd December. If a child tests positive, we need to know so we can contact our other families. Thank you for your support.

Thank you...

To our 'Friends of Hoyle Court' who once again paid for our Christmas Tree this year. Their generosity and work has continued right through lockdown, including helping Santa with his visit next week!

Flu immunisation

We have arranged for those children who missed their flu immunisation this week to have this in school on **Tuesday 5th January**.

If your child has COVID symptoms -

you **must** keep them off school and inform us straight away.

- Continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

Please get your child tested and be on the safe side.

Have you seen our outstanding learning?

Each week, in our online school assemblies we share children's learning which has stood out. You can see these on our website and APP under the 'Children' tab:



*Christmas
Nativity 2020*

Important – your child's PE Day is changing

You child will now do 'double PE' once a week – meaning children only need to come dressed for PE on the following days:

- **Monday:** 5/6FR
- **Tuesday:** 3/4L & 5/6G
- **Wednesday:** 1/2B & 1/2CF
- **Thursday:** 3/4D & 5/6C
- **Friday:** 1/2S & 3/4B

Football is re-starting

Danny Wright, one of our parents (who also leads Baildon Juniors) leads this. This is permitted under updated Covid guidelines released last week.

- This will be on Wednesdays after school and will finish at 4.30pm
- The cost is £3.50 per pupil / per session
- Next half-term is for years 3-6 (boys *and* girls are equally welcome)

If you would like to book a place for your child, please do so through 'ParentPay'.



We are pleased to announce that the school have appointed Steve Blake, an experienced Level 3 qualified Forest School Practitioner, to run Forest School sessions for the children of Hoyle Court. These sessions will give our pupils the opportunity to connect with nature, learn new art, craft and tool skills, learn how to care for the environment (both fauna and flora), learn cooking skills, take part in team building games and activities, get plenty of fresh air and, most important of all, have lots of fun at the same time. The activities will also link closely with classroom-based learning including outdoor art, science and writing.

Sessions start next week for all classes from Year 1 and above. Half the children will go out for the first half-term and then alternate each half-term through the year, so that everybody gets an equal opportunity. The children who remain in school will be part of a small, focussed teaching group, taught by their Teacher.

If your child is chosen in our first group, then you must ensure that they come to school on their Forest School day dressed appropriately. Each session will last approximately 2 hours, so it is important that they come dressed in thick socks, waterproof coat, gloves and outdoor footwear (wellies if they have them). They do not need to come in their uniform, but dressed for the outdoors.

Given the problems our children have faced over the last 10 months due to the pandemic, we see this as an ideal opportunity to help our children with their wellbeing, both mentally and physically, and we are very excited about this new adventure. We will let you know today if your child will be attending Forest School from next week.

And the winner is

You may recall our competition to design a book cover for 'Sally Sandwich's Hoyle Court Cook Book'. We had some fantastic entries. Our winner was Niveole in year 2 – well done!

I would like to thank Tom Ratcliffe and Natasha Miller, two of our parents who have co-ordinated the entire thing and raised money for charity in the process.

And another winner

Eleanor in year 6 definitely deserves a mention today. Eleanor's Christmas card design was chosen from 1000's of others across from the city as the official Bradford Council Christmas Card.

We've seen her artwork, she is a very talented girl. Well done Eleanor.