



# Wistaston Weekly

The Learning for Life Partnership t/a Wistaston Church Lane Academy. Registered in England and Wales, Registration Number 9675372  
Registered at Shavington Primary School, Southbank Avenue, Shavington, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 5BP

**Week 14**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Website: [www.wcla.co.uk](http://www.wcla.co.uk)

Facebook: [wistastonchurchlane](https://www.facebook.com/wistastonchurchlane)

Twitter: [@wistaston](https://twitter.com/wistaston)

"We will challenge, excite and encourage a love of life and learning in every child."

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*As we reach the end of 2020, I'd like to stop and reflect for moment on the year. It's hard to think – a year ago we had barely heard of the word 'coronavirus' as we all set about making new year's resolutions and thinking about the brand new decade that was about to arrive! The excitement of a new decade was quickly overtaken in March by the pandemic and national lockdown. Children spent such a long time away from school and their friends and nothing would not be quite the same for the rest of the year. Most of the children returned to school, even for just a little bit, back in the summer before everyone returned in September. We have carefully tried to manage the spread of the virus in the school and have, for the most part, been successful. During the year we tragically lost two valued members of staff. And things have been emotionally difficult during this final week as we have needed to ask a class and some staff members to isolate right up until Christmas day. 2020 is just not giving up.*

*It has been a tough year, but there has so much light shining at Wistaston Church Lane. The children have returned to school happy and excited to learn and the momentum of their progress is building. The gap in schooling has given our teachers and staff the dream career opportunity to absolutely teach to the best of their ability to support the children in getting back on track. Classroom relationships have never been stronger! The school community continues to be a strong partnership: we have been overwhelmed by the kind messages from parents over the last few weeks. I have been so grateful to share these with colleagues and everyone is incredibly appreciative. The school is happy, well-maintained and is full (attendance is better than ever) of the best children in the world. 2020 is almost behind us, but 2021 is set to be a year of hope and promise and I cannot wait to see what it brings!*

*I must end the year with some thank yous of my own. Firstly to parents, for your understanding and support throughout the year. You are such an important part of our community. You will have faced your own personal challenges this year but have done your absolute best for the children every single day. Our Local Advisory Board have supported school leaders throughout the year, offering advice and support and giving us someone to talk to. The Learning For Life Partnership have been incredibly supportive through the year and we are so fortunate to be part of such a close group of schools. Our local community have looked after us well – our friends in local churches, the local community council, our PCSOs and The Wistaston Roundabout have offered their best wishes throughout the year. Mr Bateman and Mr Raiswell from Sports Coaching Group have been superb throughout the year. Mellors, our caterers, have worked hard to keep the children fed and our lunchtime team have been absolutely first class, and we are so grateful to them. Our school office and finance team have worked hard, managing to keep the school running so beautifully in the background. Mr Bickerton, supported this term by Mr Cheers, has been excellent and has kept the school buildings and grounds in great condition. Our Swan Stars team have worked tirelessly, keeping the children happy and entertained early in the day and late in the evening. The Friends of the School have supported us so brilliantly and offered their help on so many occasions.*

*There are three groups of people who deserve a special thank you this year:*

*The children – the children have made me incredibly proud. The best children in the world attend Wistaston Church Lane. They have returned to school hungry for learning! By the end of January we will have 419 children on roll – the highest number I have ever known.*

*Our cleaners – The Service Master Team who have not stopped for a moment, ensuring high standards of hygiene throughout the school.*

*Our teachers and teaching assistants – It is a real privilege to work with such a dedicated team who want the best for every child. Every routine we've ever established has been broken this year but everyone has adapted and risen to every challenge. Your children are in such safe hands!*

*My very final thank you is to Mrs Watson. I honestly don't know how I'd have survived this year without her. She has kept me grounded and focused. We make a fantastic team and I am so thankful that she was working with me this year. Every challenge that the pandemic and the everchanging legislation has thrown at me has been made easier with her support.*

*There is lots of important information in this newsletter – please take care to read it.*

*Wishing you love and happiness this Christmas and in the new year.*

*Mr Bancroft*

## **NEW MESSAGES**

**There is important new information below – please make sure that you read it.**

# **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ THIS MESSAGE**

## **Reporting Coronavirus Cases after the end of school today**

If your child becomes symptomatic between the end of the school day on today and 6pm 19th December:

- Please e-mail – [covid19@wistaston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@wistaston.cheshire.sch.uk) to notify the school that your child has become symptomatic.
- School will then notify all close contacts of the child via text that their child may need to self-isolate - If they become symptomatic after 6pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December no action from the school is required (you will still need to get a test, but you only need to inform school via email if they test positive)
- Once a test result is known, parents should contact school again via the email above (negative or positive).
- The school will contact all parents of close contact again with instructions:
  - If positive- children will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from Thursday 17th December
  - If negative- no further action will be required

**It is of vital importance that you follow these instructions.**

### **Christmas Videos**

Yesterday morning we released our 2020 Christmas Video. We've had lots of nice comments and it has been watched lots of times! We hope you enjoy it! was lots of fun to make. If you would like to take a look please use the following link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1LglBvmAOw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1LglBvmAOw) or search for Wistaston Church Lane Christmas Video 2020. Please feel free to share this video if you would like to.

Our 15 Days of Christmas videos have now been watched almost 6,000 times altogether! This week Miss Baugh, Mrs Lawrie, Miss Smith and Mrs Storey's classes have shared their videos. Enjoy them at [www.youtube.com/c/WistastonChurchLaneAcademy/](https://www.youtube.com/c/WistastonChurchLaneAcademy/)!

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund in memory of Mr Nicol, our Assistant Caretaker. A grand total of £270.65 was raised!

### **Mr and Mrs Vanstone's Exciting News**

Mr and Mrs Vanstone are expecting a baby. Their new arrival is expected in early January and we wish them lots of love for the coming weeks. Please note that this may mean that the children in his class have a different teacher for a week or two.

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Miss Barrow who has started as a lunchtime assistant this week. In January Mrs Hassall will be joining us. They will both make great additions to the team!

### **Christmas Lunch**

We would like to thank our catering team who served a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

### **Dr Kieran Mullan MP's Christmas Card competition**

Well done to Millie Heys who was a runner up on our local MP's Christmas card competition.

### **Sports Coaching Group**

Well done to Mrs Storey's class who won Mr Raiswell and Mr Bateman's Christmas physical activity competition.

### **School Holidays**

School closes today and re-opens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## Wells Green Methodist Church

Thank you to the church for knitting angels for our members of staff. What a lovely thought at this time of year. Here's Mr Bancroft receiving them.



## Cracking Christmas Collection at Wells Green Methodist Church, Wistaston

There was a massive response from the community and church members on Saturday 28 November, when Wells Green Methodist Church on Brookland Avenue, Wistaston, opened its doors and asked for gifts of money and goods to be sent to the Crewe Foodbank and the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. The attached photo only tells part of the story. Almost £1,000 was raised in cash to buy toys for distribution to families in the town, while some new items were donated as well. Other tables were covered with over 400 articles of winter clothing, offering protection from head to toe, in the shape of hats, scarves, coats, jumpers, trousers, shoes and literally hundreds of pairs of socks and gloves, not to mention a couple of sleeping bags. The Salvation Army will be distributing these winter warmers to keep out the cold in Crewe. Finally, the Foodbank will benefit from the tables you can see stacked with Christmas treats, from chocolate-filled Advent calendars, to selection boxes and tins of sweets.

Rev Den Harding, the minister who organized the event, was overwhelmed by people's generosity and would like to thank everyone who gave so much. It was a real blessing and a tremendous testimony to the Christmas spirit.

A personal word of thanks to Wistaston Church Lane Academy from Rev Den for the generosity of pupils, families and staff towards the above appeal – you were all so kind and this will be appreciated by so many. Thank you very much.



### **The Friends of Wistaston Church Lane Academy**

The Friends of Wistaston Church Lane Academy would like wish all parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. We would also like to thank you to everyone who has supported us this term with our online fundraising.

### **REPEATED INFORMATION**

**The information below has been shared before – you may have read it already, but we have kept it here as it is important.**

#### **Changes to holidays and INSET Day**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December is now an INSET day for staff members – this is instead of the INSET previously planned for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Children will be required to attend school on that date in February.

#### **Applying for School Places for September 2021**

Parents and Carers are reminded that the application round for places in Reception 2021 is now open. More details can be found on Cheshire East's website at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions/start-school-september.aspx). The deadline to apply for a place for Reception 2021 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

#### **School Office**

Please could we remind you that the school office is now closed to parents unless a prior arrangement has been made. For any general enquires please send an email to [admin@wistaston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wistaston.cheshire.sch.uk) However if you need to contact us urgently, phone calls can still be taken.

#### **Coronavirus**

Your child must not come into school if they have the following symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change in taste or smell. If your child has these symptoms they should book a test using [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/) or by calling 119.