



# 'Virtual' Christmas Fair

Dear Parents/Carers,

We continue to have to be creative with our thinking in terms of keeping our Eastlea Christmas plans as safe and Covid secure as possible. **Our annual Christmas Fair continues to be a major fundraiser and we know that without it we may struggle to provide as many exciting experiences for the children.** So, as we did last December, although our Fair will have to again be 'Virtual' we do still want it to go ahead.

The 'Virtual' Christmas Fair will take place on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** and it will follow a similar pattern to last year:

- Our popular **Christmas Raffle** is going ahead as normal and each child has 2 books of tickets to sell for £1 per book (see attached). I know many families are able to sell additional books of tickets, so please see Miss Beeston at the front of school if you need any more. Money and ticket stubs need to be returned to school by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and please don't forget to write your name/contact number/class name on the stubs. The raffle will be drawn by a small group of 'socially distanced' staff on the afternoon of Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and winners will be notified in the usual way. Where possible, prizes will be sent home with pupils, or if some items need collecting then again this will be done safely from outside the main entrance of the school.

To help us organise the raffle and make sure there are plenty of prizes, **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November will be a non-uniform day**. As a 'fine' for coming in non-uniform we ask that every pupil brings in an item which will be a **RAFFLE PRIZE**.

This could be a box of sweets, some toiletries, a game, a 'bottle', a toy or... anything really that you wish to donate!

- All the staff and children are starting to make plans for **class based fundraisers** for the Virtual Fair and this will involve making Christmas **craft bags**, baking **edible treats** etc! Money to purchase these items [*we suggest £3 per child*] will need to be brought into school on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** too!
- To make the 'Fair' day feel even more 'Christmassy' 3<sup>rd</sup> December will also be a **non-uniform day** - if they wish children can come in a **Christmas jumper/festive t-shirt/Santa hat etc**. Please do not go out and buy a jumper specially, a tinsel hairband/garland or a red/green t-shirt would do!

Like last year the fair will certainly be a 'different experience' and although we will all miss the buzz of a busy hall, we hope that we can again rely on the generosity of parent/carers/wider family to continue to help us make our December fundraiser a huge success - we really need your support!

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!**

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Beeston (Head Teacher) and Mrs L Raimes (Friends of Eastlea)

*P.T.O. for General Christmas update*



## Eastlea Christmas Covid update

As you will be aware, it has been a difficult few weeks in terms of Covid restrictions at Eastlea. The Northumberland County Council additional measures for all schools came into effect from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November which prohibited whole school gatherings, and then this week we had to follow some extra contingency measures due to a 'spike' in cases from one class which involved a return to playtime/lunchtime 'bubbles' for outdoor as well as indoor activities.

This situation has presented Eastlea staff with extra challenges around our plans for Christmas and we have had to take some difficult and disappointing decisions since Monday. These were outlined to the children at our zoom assembly this morning:

1. The proposed pantomime visit for the children on Golden Day has had to be cancelled as we recognise that by 16<sup>th</sup> December we will NOT be in a position to take the whole school out to an indoor theatre performance where there will be lots of children/adults from other schools. This would not have been sensible or safe, and by cancelling now we have recouped the money which had already been paid a while ago to secure our seats (£2000+). We are in the process of deciding on different plans for this day and will ensure that as usual we have an exciting day for everyone which will be announced to the children nearer the time.
2. Our proposed visit to St Nicholas' church for a nativity service in the last week of term is also temporarily on hold - but if restrictions have been eased and whole school gatherings are allowed then we do still plan to go ahead with this visit - but it will be limited to pupils/staff only.

### N.B.

- Pupil absences are making rehearsals tricky, but we are still going ahead with our Christmas productions in key stages. As you know these will be videoed and shared with parents/carers via a protected online link [more details and requests for permission will follow in the coming weeks].
- Our Christmas parties in class groups are also unaffected.