

Haseltine Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

Time is really ticking on; I can't believe that we only have two weeks left of this term. It always seems to be the longest term of the year and yet here we are, at the tail end of it! I really hope that you and your families are all well.

Over the next couple of weeks the children are preparing a 'mini' show that we will film and send out to you just before we break up. These won't be anything like the shows that we would normally be doing at this time of year, so please don't expect an extravaganza 😊 We are doing our best though to send you something.

Please let me explain a couple of the barriers the teachers have faced in sending these to you, which may prepare you for the fact that we are talking low-key here:

- In some classes, only 9 or 10 children have permission to appear on social media. Therefore, the teachers are having to prepare & film the show with these few children whilst also teaching the rest of the class
- The teachers are very aware that children have missed so much time off school this year, they are worried about having to give up valuable teaching time
- The children may be filming the shows – don't expect Steven Spielberg standard 😊

Don't worry, if you have ticked the section on the form that allows your child to appear on social media, you will still receive something from us – I know that our teachers will make it the best that they can.

Over the next couple of weeks, the children will also have the chance to watch a virtual pantomime, performed by a company called Big Foot. This has been filmed especially for us. The children will also have a small Christmas Party – this will have restrictions because of Covid, including no food, unfortunately. (The risks around food handling and the measures we'd have to put into place would take all the fun out of a party anyway.) Instead the children will have an hour or so of dancing and games. If you don't want your child to take part in either of these things, please can you let your class teacher know.

Some parents asked me the other day whether they were allowed to give presents or cards to the teachers. My answer to this is always, "Please don't – we would rather you spent the money on your families, we understand how tricky this time of year can be for all of us." However, if you were still wanting to; you would need to pass the gift to the people on the gate and we would then need to pass onto the relevant person, please therefore make sure that the gift is clearly labelled. The teacher would not be able to open the gift for 72 hours following a quarantine period. Honestly – there really is no fun to Covid!! 😊

If you have any questions about anything on this newsletter, feel free to email me: [headteacher@haseltine.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@haseltine.sch.uk)

Take care all of you, have a safe Tier 2 weekend!

Sara Anderman



### **Very Important Information, please read...**

- Do your Children use TikTok?
- Or... have they asked you if they could get it?
- Do you know the dangers?

TikTok is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos. You can use music and effects to enhance your videos and you can also browse other people's videos and interact with them. TikTok has an official age rating of 13+.

We have recently had instances at school of children copying videos or challenges that they have seen on TikTok. Some of these incidents have involved children using very offensive language that they have seen on TikTok videos.

### **What should parents be aware of?**

You need to be aware that some of the songs used in this app may contain explicit language and sexual imagery, which may not be suitable for your child to view. Like on YouTube, after watching one video, users are directed towards other related videos on a loop. This can lead to children accessing content which is not appropriate for their age group.

### **Privacy settings**

If your child is using TikTok then we recommend setting the account as private. Even with a private account, your child's profile information such as their photo and bio is still visible so ensure your child understands the importance of not adding personal information (e.g. address, age and phone numbers) to this area.

### **Family safety mode**

TikTok have created Family Pairing to help you keep your child safe whilst using TikTok. Family Pairing allows parents to link their own TikTok account to their child's account. You can also use Digital Wellbeing to get more control over how much time your child spends on TikTok and limit content that may not be appropriate for all audiences, even if you do not link your account to your child's.

This will allow you to control:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long they can spend on TikTok each day.
  - Go to your Profile tab.
  - Tap the Settings icon in the top right corner.
  - Tap Digital Wellbeing.
  - Tap Screen Time Management and follow the steps in the app.
- **Restricted Mode:** Limit the appearance of inappropriate content.
  - Go to your Profile tab.
  - Tap the Settings icon in the top right corner.
  - Tap Digital Wellbeing.
  - Tap Restricted Mode and follow the steps in the app.
- **Direct Messages:** Restrict who can send messages to them (e.g. only approved followers) or turn off direct messaging completely. TikTok now automatically disables Direct Messages for registered accounts under the age of 16.

### **Blocking and Reporting**

As with similar apps, there is the ability to report and block other users so ensure your child knows how to use the reporting features within this app and is able to block other users if necessary. TikTok have produced a number of "You're in Control" videos to show users how to use TikTok more safely. These are available here:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/youre-in-controlvideo-series-stars-tiktok-creators-to-educate-usersabout-safety-features>

### **Talk to your child**

Why does your child use it? What do they like about it? Do they know their followers? What do they like watching on it? Have they ever seen anything that has worried them? Talk to your child about what they share on TikTok. They must understand the importance of not sharing personal information and to think carefully about what they do share online.

### **Anti-Racist Action Group: Parents' Forum**

We had our second meeting last night, and this time some of the subject & phase group leaders shared with parents what we have been doing, over this term especially, at Haseltine to ensure that our school is an anti-racist environment and that we are teaching a curriculum to your children that is relevant, rich and representative of our cohort. Thank you so much to the parents who attended on Zoom.

I will be putting the slides from this session onto our website soon, so look out for them. In the meantime, I have included some of the parents' comments from the meeting:

*"Haseltine should be very proud. I can hear the passion from the teachers and this is what makes the difference."*

*"It definitely makes me feel good to know Haseltine is tackling the tough subjects that need discussing and unpacking."*

*"Just to say I'm really pleased with what Haseltine is doing and trying to achieve. Great selection of books, diverse curriculum and inspirational visitors to engage the children."*

*"The curriculum is so much richer in terms of including other perspectives than I remember at school."*

*"Just to say Well done to all of you at Haseltine! We are so happy that both of our boys are attending such a great school with fabulous teachers! So, so proud of all of you!"*

One parent said...

*"It would be good to hear feedback from the non-BAME parents with regards to the types of conversations they are having with their children as a result of these new changes..."*

If you would like to respond, please email me on [headteacher@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@haseltine.lewisham.sch.uk)

As a parent of two white daughters myself, I know that the conversations that we have at home as a family over our own white privilege, and over the issues faced by people of colour throughout history, have really helped our own thinking and awareness.



### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Next Friday – the 11<sup>th</sup> December, is Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children: this happens all over the country.

Children can wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas clothes (red or green or glittery!). If you do not celebrate Christmas, then your children can wear their own clothes or a 'Winter' jumper/outfit.

Please donate £1 for this good cause.

### **Cleaning in School**

I just wanted to reassure you that Haseltine is being cleaned really well on a daily basis. The premises team have brought in extra cleaners to support over the pandemic and everyone on the team is working really, really hard to ensure that the school is as safe and clean for everyone as possible.

### **Packed Lunches – NO NUTS PLEASE.**

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please can you make sure that it is as healthy as you can make it – no sweets or chocolate please.

It is also crucial that you do not allow your child to bring in nuts, or products with nuts in. We have several children across the school with serious nut allergies – they would need to use an epipen and have hospital treatment if they came into contact with a nut.

### **Haseltine Christmas Dinner:**

**PLEASE READ IF YOUR CHILD NORMALLY HAS PACKED LUNCH. If your child normally has a school dinner you do NOT need to do ANYTHING about this.**

If your child normally has a packed lunch and IF they would like to have a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, then please go onto Parent Pay, go to 'Payment Items' and select 'Christmas Dinner'. You will then need to pay £2.30. (If your child is in R, year 1 or year 2 you will still need to select Christmas Dinner on Parent Pay but you will not be charged because of the fact that children in these year groups do not pay for school dinners anyway. This also applies to children in years 3, 4, 5 & 6 who have FSM.)

You will need to do this by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 12pm, if we don't hear from you by then your child would need to have a packed lunch as usual on that day.

### **Break Up and come back....**

Just to remind you all that we break up for the two week Christmas break on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, please come to school that day and then your children return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. (The 4<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day for teachers only).



The Haseltine tree is up – Covid can't stop everything 😊