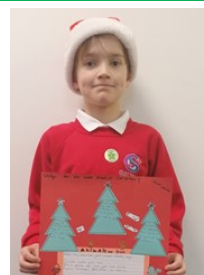


### Co-Head Teacher News

He's done it again! A very well done to Noah who has risen to the newsletter challenge and created a wonderful poster about why we have Christmas Trees. Did you know:

- The Romans decorated trees to celebrate saturnalia?
- Ever since 1947 Norway has given London a tree to say thank you for helping them during World War 2?
- Wildlife shelter in trees, they can eat the fruit and nuts produced by trees and of course birds nest in their branches?



It seems very fitting that I am writing about trees on the day when our very own Forest School expert is leaving Calton after 37 Years of service! Of course I mean "Little" Jackie who has given so much to the children and families in the community, there must be thousands of children who she has worked with. We thank her for all the amazing education and support she has given and wish her a very happy retirement. Jackie knows that she is welcome back anytime – but on her terms! We must be mindful of the Covid restrictions which remain and that might change. Calton is determined to remain open but know that we may be directed differently over the holidays. Please keep your eye out for texts in case there are updates.

However, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a lovely New Year and look forward to a more settled 2022. Best wishes, Sarah Bunce

**Sarah Bunce & Jane Barker-Doe, Co-Head Teachers**



### Calton Playgroup News

Everyone has been very excited about Christmas they have been making cards, writing letters to Father Christmas, making salt dough decorations, as well as decorations for our tree and exploring various sensory tuff trays. Children have been sharing what mischief their naughty elf has been getting up to in their homes. We have enjoyed performing our Christmas songs every day.

We have done lots of exploring, discovering and had an enormous amount of fun in Forest School. We have climbed trees, dived in leaf piles, been fishing and discovered some amazing hiding places as well as observing the change of season. The children have noticed how bare the trees look without their leaves, now the crow nests are visible. We also have a new wooden structure to provide shade and shelter.

The children explored the shelter together and it will now remain a popular and permanent fixture in our outdoor learning environment. Inside the hide, the children used binoculars and bird identification sheets to explore the local wildlife. We have seen magpies, sparrows, seagulls, pigeons, starlings and a robin who often joins us at base camp singing as we sit quietly and practice our mindfulness.

I would like to take a moment to say 'Thank You' for all the lovely presents and cards I have received wishing me a happy retirement. It has been an emotional week. It has been my privilege to have been a big part of so many people's lives, adults and children (past and present). I have enjoyed my time here enormously - and you've all played a big part in that. I will miss you all as I begin my new adventures.

Keep shining like the super stars ☐☐☐☐ you all are.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year  
Jackie x

**Jackie Swankie, Playgroup Manager**





## Key dates for Reception - Year 6



4th January 2022	INSET DAY, school closed to pupils
5th January	Start of term 3
12th, 13th January	Reception Height, Weight, Vision, School Nurses
14th January	Y5 Zinc Class assembly, 9.30am
21st January	Y5 Copper Class assembly, 9.30am
28th January	Y5 Iron Class assembly, 9.30am
4th February	Y3 Sapphire Class assembly, 9.30am
11th February	Y3 Ruby Class assembly, 9.30am
18th February	Y3 Emerald Class assembly, 9.30am
18th February	End of term 3
28th February	Start of term 4
11th March	Y4 Amethyst Class assembly, 9.30am
18th March	Y4 Topaz Class assembly, 9.30am
25th March	Y4 Diamond Class assembly, 9.30am
8th April	End of term 4
25th April	Start of term 5
27th - 29th April	Y4 Residential, Croft Farm
20th May	YR Yellow Class assembly, 9.30am
27th May	YR Blue Class assembly, 9.30am
27th May	End of term 5
6th June	INSET DAY, school closed to pupils
7th June	Start of term 6
17th June	Y1 Purple Class assembly, 9.30am
24th June	Y1 Green Class assembly, 9.30am
1st July	Y1 Orange Class assembly, 9.30am
20th July	End of term
21st July	INSET DAY, school closed to pupils



*(22nd July is in lieu of an extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee)*

Calton Primary School term dates for 2022 / 2023 are on the school website under "Parent Info". Here you will also find current letters that have been emailed home to the whole school. We do hope to be able to invite parents in for Class assemblies in the New Year, however, we will continue to follow the LA guidance provided and will keep parents updated on this.

### Reporting Pupil Absences

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, please telephone the school before 9am (please press 1) stating child's name, class and the nature of the illness.

### Medical Appointments

We understand that hospital appointments need to be attended at times offered, however, **we ask that routine Doctor and Dental appointments are made out of school hours wherever possible.**

**01452 527689 (please press 1) or email [attendance@caltonprimary.co.uk](mailto:attendance@caltonprimary.co.uk) to report any absences / appointments**

#### Medical Information

Please ensure that you have informed the school of any medical condition or allergies your child may have. Asthma inhalers should be taken home at the end of each term to be sterilised.



#### Polite Reminder

No dogs are allowed on the school grounds, not even if carried.  
Thank you

**A nurturing, inclusive learning community that enables everyone to be their best**

**Skills Togetherness Aspiration Resilience Success**



## Admission to infant / primary school September 2022

**Apply online** for a place  
[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/school admissions](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/school-admissions)  
**by 15th January 2022**

If you have not heard from Shire Hall you must contact them so they can send you the information to apply for a school place.

**[school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

Shire Hall  
Westgate Street, Gloucester

**Allocation day is 19th April 2022**



### Daily Testing for Contacts of Covid19

From 14th December 2021, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under 5 years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Once notified by Test and Trace (or by school) as a close contact, parents are strongly recommended to ensure that all eligible pupils take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the online reporting system and also notify school via the following email address: [reporting@caltonprimary.co.uk](mailto:reporting@caltonprimary.co.uk), particularly across the Christmas period. On return after Christmas please contact the school office to update.

If pupils test negative, they can continue to attend school. Outside of school, they should continue to follow national guidance. This approach should also be adopted over the Christmas holiday as well as on return in January 2022.

Following the above guidance will certainly help us to keep our school as healthy as we can and working in tandem with any further local or national measures deemed appropriate for our Outbreak Management Plan, should limit the impact of any potential outbreaks.

Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation.



**SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR**

### PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We previously reported how important it is not to park on the yellow markings outside the front of school. **This includes the yellow zig zag and single yellow lines.**

Signage is on display at the front of school to emphasise the rules and anyone parking on the markings could face a fine.

We are monitoring the situation and the number plates of regular offenders will be passed on to the police.

Can we also remind everyone to be considerate of our neighbours when parking on Calton Road.

**Let's work together to keep our children safe on their journey to and from school.**

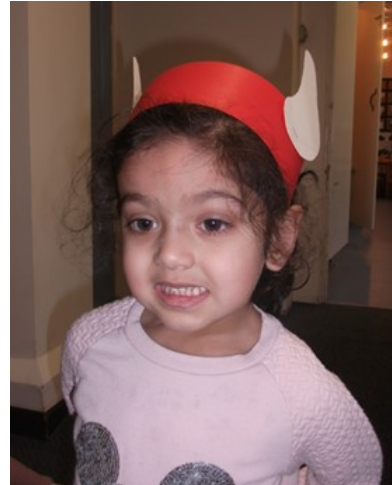
Thank you for your support.



# Playgroup Learning



← sewing our Christmas stocking



← Celebrating "Elf Day"



← "I did it all by myself"



→ "I can do a snow angel in the leaves"



← "This is very soft to fall on"



← Exploring the sensory candy cane tuff tray

→ "I got a happy face"

