



# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

End of Term Message | Christmas Learning | Community Activities

## Christmas Cards

It is getting to the point of year when we are thinking about writing Christmas cards to our friends and family.

Unfortunately, in school, due to the paper free environment that we are trying to maintain, we have not been able to allow Christmas Cards written by children into school this year. This is to stop the accidental spread of COVID-19. We are suggesting the following alternatives:

Write your Christmas cards, photograph them and email them to all your friends using TEAMS

OR

Design and create a large Christmas card/picture to put up in the front window of your house. You can then try to spot them on your way around town. (Make sure you don't put your name in them to keep you safe!)



## Dear Parents & Carers

This will be the last newsletter of 2020 and 2021 is on the horizon. I know many of you will share my optimism and hope that 2021 will be the turning point to brighter times. This year has been so challenging and has affected so many families that we sometimes forget that there have been bright spots in it. There have been things that have shone out; that have lifted and inspired.

I would like to end the year by thanking the different communities that have supported us at Alford Primary School.

First, a nod to the wider community of Alford. We have asked a lot of the Alford community and they have delivered in bucketloads. Thank you to Lynette, Karen and the team at the Alford Hub for supporting us with collections and donations. Our love to Mandy and the team at the Store House for working with us to support the community. We send huge appreciation to Reverend Sherine and the Church for being the quiet support that we know is always there. Thank you too, to Jason and his team at Callaby's for delivering much-needed provision packs, and to Tesco and the Co-op for their donations



## Starting in Reception 2021

Just a reminder to those parents and carers who have a child due to start school in September...

You can now apply for a school place online!

Starting school is a big step and we would love your child to join Alford Primary and be part of our flourishing school community, where high aspirations and a caring family ethos are at the heart of what we do.

We can offer:

- A curriculum designed to excite, challenge and support every child, to find their strengths and to build their aspirations;

- Pure year groups with excellent adult to child ratios;

- A strong commitment to the transition process, from pre-school to school, offering home visits;

- High quality wrap around childcare from 7.45am-5.30pm.

Have a look at our 'Starting School' brochure to find out more!  
[alfordprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/School-Starter-Pack-2021-Public.pdf](https://alfordprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/School-Starter-Pack-2021-Public.pdf)

Or look at our virtual tour:

<https://alfordprimary.co.uk/virtual-tour/>

Please use the link below for further information:

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

that have helped feed the children and families. Thank you finally to the team at Butlins for the lovely chocolate selection boxes that provided a wonderful treat for the end of the term and to our own friends of the School who had lots planned for the children - this will now happen next term. If I have forgotten anyone else (there have been so many)...thank you to you too.

Since the beginning of the year, the extent of the work completed by the staff and governors in school cannot be articulated. They have constantly adapted and evolved to the ever-changing landscape. I have lost count of the number of times, the entire staff have had to completely change the way they work in response to late-arriving government guidance. They have shown ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all the children and, in true Alford spirit, have remained upbeat and enthusiastic. The staff even donated treats for the food bank instead of buying gifts for each other at Christmas! Thank you to such a great team.

The support from the parent community has surpassed anything that I could have hoped for. You have also had to cope with the stresses of remote learning, months of school closures, and ever-changing systems. Your constant, positive comments have kept us motivated; your smiles, and nods through masks, have encouraged us through tricky times. I know many of the staff have been lifted by the kind emails that have been sent. I thank you for taking time out of your day to think of them and acknowledge their hard work.

The children must, as always, get my biggest thanks. They just get on with it! When we were going into lockdown, they just got on with it. When they came back, to different teachers, they smiled and just got on with it. Through popping bubbles, difficult personal situations, grief for lost loved ones, they just got on with it. Always smiling and hard-working, they always just get on with it. Their resilience and positivity must be the encouragement that we will all need in January - to come back, knuckle down to learning, and be the best we can be.

To our families that have lost people this year – through Covid or otherwise, I send you our love and best wishes over the festive period. I wish you the strength you need to smile, when missing those who are dear to you. Remember we are always here if you need us.

Thank you everyone for helping Alford through 2020. I hope you all have the safest and happiest Christmas and New Year that it is possible to have.

Mrs Ross



## Attendance

Our attendance for this term has dropped a lot but will hopefully pick up over the next few weeks.

A reminder that any child with attendance below 85% is considered to be a persistent absentee and will receive a notification letter from the school.

## End of Term

A reminder that Thursday 17th December is the last day of this half term for children.

**The Spring term will start on Monday 4th January 2021.**

## Term Dates

TERM 2: 2020/2021  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 until  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

TERM 3: 2020/2021  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 until  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

TERM 4: 2020/2021  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 until  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

TERM 5: 2020/2021  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 until  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

TERM 6: 2020/2021  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 until  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

## Reporting Covid-19 over Christmas

Over the beginning of the Christmas holiday, the school will be on call for 6 days (up to 23<sup>rd</sup> December) should any children test positive. If your child does test positive within these 6 days (up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> December), we will need parents to notify us immediately. This can be done using the main school email [primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk).

Dates	18 <sup>th</sup> December – 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	24 <sup>th</sup> December – 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
What parents need to do	<p>If your child tests positive during this time, immediately email the school at <a href="mailto:primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk">primaryschool@alford.lincs.sch.uk</a> with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child's full name</li> <li>Child's date of birth</li> <li>Child's class</li> <li>Date that symptoms started</li> <li>Date that COVID test was taken</li> <li>Last day that child was in school</li> </ul>	<p>If your child tests positive during this time, <u>you do not need to inform the school until 4<sup>th</sup> January</u>.</p> <p>Your child will miss the beginning of the term as your child and household will be isolating.</p>
What the school will do	<p>Ring you and discuss the results. We will then trace contacts within the school community. We will inform children who need to self-isolate (contacts) via Parent Hub.</p>	<p>We will record your child as absent on return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>NHS Test and Trace will contact you.</p>

If this occurs, we will be required by the DFE to 'Track and Trace' the close contacts of these children, which may mean contacting bubbles after the end of the holidays, and asking the children in these bubbles to self-isolate. This means that you may receive a Parent Hub message up to, and including the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. We obviously want to avoid this at all costs as this will mean that your child will then need to isolate and cannot leave the house for any reason.





## Community Activities

Christmas is coming! Before the Christmas holiday, your child may have come home with a Baby Jesus peg. The idea is for you and your child to create a Christmas Nativity scene in your window for everyone to see. Can you make a bed for Jesus? Perhaps you could find or create some other characters from the Christmas story?

You may already have spotted some Nativity scenes in local shop windows. The aim is for the everyone in our local Alford community to join in.

Please send a photo of your Christmas Nativity scene to [sherine.angus@lincoln.anglican.org](mailto:sherine.angus@lincoln.anglican.org). Look out for lots of lovely photos on the Alford Group of Churches and the Alford Hub Facebook pages!



## Jingle Bells...

Please join us to jingle some bells at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve!

Come outside onto your door step and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread Christmas spirit and help Santa to fly his sleigh! It's been a challenging year and it would be a lovely memory to create just like when we clapped for our heroes during the first full lockdown. Let's end 2020 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness!

## Last Look into Our Learning This Week

Look at the beautiful writing that Year 4 have been doing. Linked to the Snowman film, they have written their own stories of flying through the air.



We started, but we didn't finish, Be Happy Be Healthy Day – watch out for this next term.

## On Christmas Eve

At 6pm

We are asking everyone to go outside and ring a bell for 2 minutes to spread

**CHRISTMAS**  
Spirit and help



Fly his Sleigh

After a tough year it would be an amazing memory for Children and the Community  
Let's end **2020**  
with a bit of Magic, Hope and Togetherness

**CHRISTMAS EVE JINGLE 2020**



## Online Safety

Access to new tech over the winter period can provide new opportunities for children and young people but also present risks.

Thinkuknow has a guide for parents which looks at how they can support their child to be safer online this season by focusing on 3 key areas: viewing, sharing, chatting and friending.

[Thinkuknow - Being Social Online - A Parent's Guide](#)

4 steps you can take to help children stay safer.

Thinkuknow's [new post](#) takes you through the importance of conversations with children and young people about communicating safely online, helping them to understand how to report anything worrying, and reminding parents and carers about setting up parental controls.

You'll also find examples of resources that you can use to build on these conversations and develop skills and knowledge in the new year.

Help us learn more about young people and the dark web

Thinkuknow are currently working with [The Children's Society](#) and [Marie Collins Foundation](#) to find out more about young people's experiences using the dark web, and how they can be protected from encountering the associated risks.

## Hope & Light - hope & wishes for 2021

A message to all the children....

On behalf of the Different Light team & East Lindsey District Council, I am just dropping you a line to say a massive thank you for getting involved in the Hope & Light project in Alford, Horncastle, Louth & Spilsby. We were delighted (and slightly overwhelmed!) to receive well over 1,000 designs from across the district and, as I hope you might have seen already, the projections and shopfront displays are up and running in all 4 towns (we even had a piece on BBC Look North) and will remain in place until New Years Day.

There is a final part to the project which is our Hopes & Wishes Tags. We are encouraging people across the district to collect a tag from a one of a few designated places in each of the 4 towns, to make a wish for 2021, to write that wish onto a tag (or just leave it blank if preferred) and then to tie the tags onto railings at the designated area in each town. In Spilsby & Horncastle this is around the main Christmas Tree, in Louth it's on some railings next to the main Christmas Tree and in Alford it's on the railings in front of the Manor House.

It's been a tough year for everyone and we imagine that everyone must have hopes for 2021 and it would be great to see the number of tags representing those hopes & wishes build up as we approach the New Year!

All the details about the Hope & Light project, including when & where the projections and shopfront displays can be found in each town, where all the places are that you can pick up a tag from and where you can then attach them in order to make your wish for 2021, can be found on our website here:

[www.different-light.co.uk/hope-light](http://www.different-light.co.uk/hope-light)

If anything isn't clear please feel free to contact us.

Many thanks once again and very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a brighter 2021 :

Simon & the Different Light Team

