

## Welcome to Tudhoe Moor Nursery School

Welcome back after our half term holiday! We are very excited to be back and can't wait to get started with lots of new activities and events. We have lots going on in the run up to Christmas; please check out our important dates below– especially our Christmas Nativity!

Julia Hymers Head Teacher

### Dates for your diary

|                                                                        |                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November                                        | First day back                                               |
| Week of 10 <sup>th</sup> November                                      | Building work- new two year old playground!                  |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November                                       | Children in Need (non-uniform day– Pudsey ears if you wish!) |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                                      | Santa's Grotto visit                                         |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | The Clumsiest Christmas Elf' performance                     |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December & Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Nativity                                           |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | Relaxed Christmas Performance                                |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December                                     | Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day                              |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | 9.00am Sensory play coffee morning (all welcome)             |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December                                    | Party day!                                                   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December                                       | Last day of Nursery                                          |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January                                         | First day back at Nursery                                    |

### Remembrance Day

We will have poppies on the door each morning available for a donation.  
Other items are also available: Bands or bracelets £1, Key chains or zip tags  
50p. Children will be watching a short and age-appropriate video on  
Tuesday 11th November in school.



### Christmas Nativity

We would like to invite you to our Christmas performances on either

**Wednesday 10th December at 1.00m or**

**Friday 12th December at 9.30m.**

Children will sing some Christmas songs and be dressed up in Nativity outfits. Please sign up to a slot at the school office. Up to three family members are welcome– if you require any more, please speak to Erin at the school office who can put you on our waiting list. This year we have not grouped the children to allow greater flexibility for parents.

You are invited to come to watch one of the performances.

There are to be no photos or videos taken during the performance, but there will be an opportunity at the end for you to spend time with your child in their costumes so that you can take some photos of them alone.

Your child will only perform in the slot that you have booked to watch. If you are unable to come to either performance, your child will not take part in either.



### Relaxed Performance

If you feel that your child may be overwhelmed performing in front of lots of grown-ups, we are offering a more relaxed event on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am**. This will include:

Lights on

Quieter music

Costumes optional

Stage optional

Anything goes!



You can sign up to this slot with Erin at the school office. Places will be limited in order to keep the event quieter for the children.

### **Important Reminder**

Reminder that After School club will close earlier than usual on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. The club will close at 4pm instead of the usual 5.30pm.

### **Santa's Grotto Visit**

Children will be visiting Santa at Spennymoor Town Hall on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. We have different slots to choose from and parents are welcome to come, or if it is your child's usual session, staff are happy to take them.

If your child usually attends on a Thursday, staff will take them down for either a slot at 10am or 1.30pm (ask your child's key worker which slot your child will be attending).

If your child does not attend on a Thursday, you can meet us there for another slot at 10.30am.

Our three and four year old children will be walking down- if you think your child may struggle, you are welcome to meet us there with them.



### **The Clumsiest Christmas Elf performance**

We have invited a theatre company in to Nursery do a mini-production for the children on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** lasting around 45 minutes.



They have been in to perform in previous years and have been a real hit with the children, we're sure this year will be just as good! If your child does not attend nursery on a Tuesday, they are still welcome to come along! Chat to Erin to book them in for free and find out the timings.

### **Building work**

Our builders and gardeners will be in the two-year-old garden during the week of 10<sup>th</sup> November. A new larger play space is being created with a new fence, all new flooring, and equipment. We are also getting a new fence and some tree stumps removed in the planting area. The garden will be closed to all two year old children during this period and so they may have to share the three-year-old garden.

### Christmas Jumper Day



This will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December** in line with 'Save The Childrens' annual event. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper / T-shirt or non-uniform if they prefer. Donations are welcome and all proceeds will go to *Save the Children*. To make it even more festive, we will have our Christmas dinner on the same day. If your child normally has a hot dinner on this day, they will automatically get one- if your child does not usually but you would like them to have one, please book with Erin for a cost of £3.00. Unfortunately, if your child does not attend on a Thursday, they will not be able to come in as an extra due to ratios and hall space for lunches.

### Party day

This year's Christmas party day will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.

Children can come in wearing their party clothes- but please remember to still bring a coat and sensible shoes in case we go outside! If your child does not attend on a Wednesday, they can still come and enjoy the fun from 9am to 12pm.



### Snack Donation

We would like to kindly ask for a donation of £1 per week (or £2 for a 30 hour child) to help pay for our daily snacks and activities. Children have healthy snacks as well as helping to buy playdough ingredients and lots more. You can give your money to Erin in the office or leave it in the tin next to our front door.

### Fundraising

We will be selling reindeer dust and reindeer hot chocolate during December to help raise money for our school fund. We use this money to help pay for ingredients to make playdough and to bake with the children. As well as subsidising visits to keep costs down for parents.

We will also be running a chocolate and bottle tombola. If you have any chocolates, sweets or bottles that you would like to donate, please give them to Erin at the school office. The bottles can be alcoholic, non-alcoholic, or other types of bottles such as shampoo etc! Tickets will be available to buy during our Christmas Nativity performances for £1.00 a strip and the winners will be picked after the final performance.



### **School Places**

REMINDER: Applications for your child's place at Primary School close on Thursday 15th January 2026. Could you please let Erin know when you have submitted your application and which schools you have chosen.

### **What are we learning this half-term?**

This half term we will be learning and celebrating:

- Bonfire Night (with toasted marshmallows)
- Diwali- the Hindu festival of Light
- Christmas



Children are now developing their self-help skills and many of our children can put on their own coats and wellies. We will be continuing to practise these skills as well as doing up zips independently. We will be listening for rhyming words in stories. We will also be looking at patterns and practising counting using one to one correspondence.

Lots of our children are still learning how to take turns and share toys. This is a completely normal stage of their development. We encourage children to solve problems like this by playing games with their friends with some adult support and using words such as 'my turn, your turn'.

### **Extra sessions**



We have a small number of spaces available for extra sessions (9am to 12.00pm or 12pm to 3pm). Please see a staff member to book an extra session- perfect for Christmas shopping days, or a bit of well-deserved free time!

Only £18 for either session (and the afternoon comes with a free hot lunch!)

### **Spread the cost!**

Our summer holiday club will be open again for the first four weeks of the summer holiday. Chat to Erin now to book a place and spread the cost (rather than a large July invoice!)

### **Parents comments**

If you have any questions or comments about anything in the newsletter or nursery in general; or you would like further information about anything to do with nursery, please see a member of staff or contact us on: 01388 436000 or e-mail: [tudhoemoor.nursery@tudhoemoor.durham.sch.uk](mailto:tudhoemoor.nursery@tudhoemoor.durham.sch.uk)

If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion about anything, you can make an appointment to speak to with your child's key worker or Mrs Hymers. (Head Teacher)