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| **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**    **SECOND HALF OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2020** | | |
| **Term dates and News** | **What’s happening/Dates** | **Things to Remember** |
| **Autumn Term 2020** Monday 2 Nov – Fri 11 Dec  **Spring Term 2021**  Thurs 7 Jan – Weds 31 Mar   *Half term Mon 15 - Fri 19 Feb*  **Summer Term 2021**  Weds 21 April –Tues 20 July  *Bank Holiday Mon 3 May*  *Half Term Mon 31 May-Fri 4 June*  **WELCOME BACK**  Welcome back after the half term break. We hope you have all stayed safe and found fun things to do during your week off. We have two new children joining us this half term. We hope you will make them and their families feel welcome and help to settle in.  **STAFFING**  It is with great sadness that we announce Alaina will be leaving us towards the end of this term as her family leave the area to support older family members in the north of England. We wish her and her family well as they relocate.  **STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL**  For all 3 and 4 year olds born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 please ensure you that you apply for your Primary School place before .  All applications are made online at  [http://www.eadmissions.org.uk/](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk/" \t "_self).  If you are unsure how to do this, please speak with Ginia. Full details are on our website.  **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**  Here at Crofton Early Learners we like to support a project called Operation Christmas Child.  This normally involves packing a shoebox with a few goodies which is then sent abroad to children in really deprived areas, giving hope and joy to a child. In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and the need is greater than ever before. So this year you can do this online. By sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child you’ll be showing a child they are special and thought of. Please see the email for further details. We very much hope you will be able to support this very worthy cause. | **THEME FOR THIS TERM**  This is a short and busy half term. We shall be looking at **autumn** – fireworks, insect activity and hibernation; and then making preparations for **Christmas**. There may be a period when there will seem less to bring home on a daily basis – don’t worry, we will be storing some things for the end of term.  **CHILDREN’S ACHIEVEMENTS**  It seems that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we shall be unable to hold Parents Evening in the way we are accustomed to. Instead we will send out records of achievement to families of new starters by email during the week beginning 23 November. If you would like to discuss this further, please let Ginia know and she will arrange a telephone consultation with your keyperson. These must take place during preschool sessions.  As soon as we are able to arrange face to face meetings on the premises, we will do so.  **SANTA’S GROTTO**Image result for santa clip art  As you will be aware, we will not want to put Santa at risk of not being able to carry out his normal activity on Christmas Eve so instead of a personalised visit, Santa will be making an online appearance on Thursday 3 December. Each child will be given the opportunity to have a personal online visit from Santa, receive a gift and you will be able to have a copy. More details to come. If you have any concerns, please ask. Further details to come.  **NATIVITY – WEDNESDAY 9 OR FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**  We would normally end our term with a Nativity in the church on the last day. We are still hopeful that we may be able to do a performance to parents only (sorry this will mean no extended family members). If this is the case it will probably need to take place on Wednesday 11 December as we need to work in conjunction with the church. In the event this is not possible, we will provide a video of the Nativity. More details to come. | **CONTACTING THE PRESCHOOL**  Please note that details of absences or day to day enquiries should be emailed to Ginia or via the preschool telephone -07706 708211 – calls or text only please.  **UPDATING INFORMATION**  Please let us know **immediately** if any of your contact details change (mobile phone number, address)  **CLOTHING**  As the colder weather approaches **we still plan to use the outdoor area.** Please ensure that children come with a suitable outdoor coat and shoes (play shoes/dressing up shoes are not permitted for safety reasons). **If arriving in wellies please ensure children have a change of shoes.**  **Please also ensure that all removable clothing is named** in a place which can be easily seen and easily read – **especially sweatshirts**. If you are planning to purchase new footwear please consider something which your child can manage on their own. Velcro fastenings are ideal, rather than laces which the under 5s really are unable to manage independently.  **NHS FLU CAMPAIGN**  Flu can be horrible for young children and they can easily pass it on to those around them who could be vulnerable - even if they don't show any symptoms. Children who get flu have the same symptoms as adults – including fever, chills, aching muscles, headache, stuffy nose, dry cough and sore throat.  The free flu nasal spray is easier to give to children than the injection, is the best way to protect your child and can prevent the spread of the virus.  [Ask your GP](https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp) about your child's free flu nasal spray.  Call [**NHS 111**](https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/) if you are worried about your child's symptoms.    Crofton Baptist Church  100 Crofton Lane BR5 1HD  [www.croftonearlylearners.btck.co.uk](http://www.croftonearlylearners.btck.co.uk)  **Preschool – 07706 708211**  Leader/Manager – Ginia Brown  giniabrown.cel@btinternet.com  SENCo – Jackie Mitchell  Finance Officer – Teresa Mair  [croftonearlylearners@outlook.com](mailto:croftonearlylearners@outlook.com)  Parent Rep – Rebecca McGann |