



Dear parents: Driving in early this morning the main debate on the radio was whether its Santa Claus or Father Christmas who bring children their presents. Two of the presenters were like me second generation Irish and one said her dad always used to call him Santy ...now that brought back memories so Santy it is. Anyway got in to work to discover I had a flat tyre actually cracked tyre. Deep joy. Anyway no travel restrictions for Santy or his reindeer Donner und Blitzen and no closed roads. Hope the children have a wonderful time over Christmas because for them there is still magic despite this wretched year. Thank you to all who sent in tokens of appreciation and gifts and a special thanks to those who gave a gift for the kitchen staff and the cleaners the quiet heroes of this pandemic. I with the office staff will be on call until at least the 24th tracking and tracing if needed and Hackney have just launched a new initiative today for all staff to be tested before schools reopen. So getting ready for that as well. Please do check your emails and texts for information regarding school track and trace from the 18th until the 24th if we need to contact you. Kathy and Theresa are also making sure that vouchers from both the government and the Catholic Church get to those in need in time for Christmas. Saw as part of my headteacher rep work the latest Public Health England data for Hackney yesterday and there is a massive rise just now with at least 4 schools in Hackney closed and many more in other London boroughs so please be even more careful over the holidays. I am an eternal optimist and relentlessly positive so here's hoping for a better 2021 but realistically Summer 2021. See you all January 6th. Have a Happy. Healthy and Holy Christmas.

School news this and next week ...

Thursday 17th .. A Panto for every class now on 'Jack and the Beanstalk' ... "oh yes there is" children may be collected from 1.30pm please let us know first. Same for children who walk home alone we must be informed. School closes at the usual times.

Friday .. INSET Day planned and been on our website since March. Apart from headteachersI have to be on call until the 24th of December now. Bah humbug I had to cancel my Bengali Christmas Day lunch now



Letter and Message from Annie Gammon head of Hackney Education

The important work of educating our children is again at the forefront of national news. In the light of this I am sending you a statement re the current position in Hackney.

Schools being open - 15th December 2020

Schools, colleges and nurseries have been open all this term with education for the great majority of children unaffected by covid and self isolation. However there was a sharp rise in the number of cases in educational settings over the last week. Consequently a larger number of schools have now sent bubbles home to self isolate, with their learning continuing at home.

The Department of Education and public health stance is currently to keep schools open, if at all possible, as it is in the best interest of the children and their education. Where this is not possible then the school can revert to distance learning.

All Hackney schools have been open over the last four months; currently only four settings and schools are closed. The closures are as follows: Comet nursery school, Gayhurst school, Berger and Thomas Fairchild (for one day only) school. The rest of schools remain open although they may have some year groups learning at home. There are staffing shortages (as some staff have had to self isolate) in a number of schools: headteachers take this into account in deciding if they can run the school fully.

Hackney public health and education are monitoring the situation daily and jointly provide advice for individual schools. We appreciate all that those working in schools and settings are doing to continue the care and education of their pupils.

You may want to include this information on your website. I appreciate these are times of significant challenge. Please do not hesitate to call your school improvement partner if you need any advice.

With best wishes and thanks, **Annie Gammon**

Pics of the week:

Panto with Jack and the Beanstalk and 'he's behind you today' 'oh no he isn't' etc



and finally goal of the season last night Seb Haller wow ... most exhausted I have ever been in teaching so off for some rest and quiet and hopefully you won't hear from us in the next week ...and thank you all for being a great and supportive set of parents this year. It's not been easy keeping a school running during a global pandemic but hopefully it has strengthened even further a sense of our strong school community. New Years Eve will be different and more reflective. A wise Buddhist monk once asked God for nothing else but the strength to cope and deal with whatever life threw at him. Here's to a brighter and smilier 2021.