

To all Parents and Carers

Date

19 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a chance to get into school recently for a Christmas Fair, or a concert or even a meeting to talk about learning. In amongst all the return to business as usual, and the unforeseen interruptions, you would have seen, or heard, the happiness and high spirits that are unique in December.

I was lucky enough to be in Brunstane Primary when the first snow fell and was reminded that even the most dedicated teachers can't compete with falling snow and the prospect of playtime outside! I suspect even the most carefully thought-out Christmas present would be abandoned for the first gloved handful of snow - a good reminder that fun is sometimes literally priceless. Christmas, for those who celebrate it, will be different again this year. For some it will be in a temporary home, or new country, or with a radically reduced budget, or with gifts and donations from others to piece together a special time.

Almost all of our schools have become places where people share, either food, clothes or gifts. We have received donations from strangers and friends, and we are privileged and proud to be able to help those in need. Thank you if you've shared or offered support in any way.

Our schools will close at 1pm this year so that children can have a hot meal before they head home for the holidays. If you are in crisis over the holidays, we have various locations which will provide Warm and Welcoming Space these can be found via this link

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/warmwelcoming>.

Finally, at a time when we are still working through so many uncertainties, I hope these holidays are a time to get together with loved ones, not to compare what we used to have, or what social media tells us we should have, but to look back on another year of growth and to prepare to put our 'best foot' forward for the next one.

With warmest regards,



Lorna French
Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning