



Monday 11th December 2023

Newton Abbot's Christmas Lantern Parade – Wednesday 13th December

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know already, last Tuesday we had a successful trip to The Avenue Church to work with artist Karol Da Silva (and others!) to create wonderful gnome lanterns for this year's Lantern Parade. Karol and the other artists complimented us on our behaviour throughout the day- we were allowed to help decorate the giant whale lantern too.

Now that the lanterns have been made, it is time to do the parade. This is a wonderful experience for all and it would be lovely to see as many of you on Wednesday 13th December as possible. Please can you bring your child to Bearnese school playground at 6:00pm, myself and other adults from school will meet your child at the gate and will take them onto the playground to retrieve their own lantern.

It has been requested that once your child is dropped off to a Haytor View adult, you wait outside of the school playground. This is to avoid overcrowding within Bearnese playground and to support the organisation of the procession as we expect lots of people to be in attendance. At 6:30pm, we will exit the school playground onto Queen Street and invite parents and families to join us in walking together as part of a procession across Newton Abbot town centre, to arrive at the clocktower around 7:00pm. This is when we enjoy the story 'The wild creatures come to town' and the music before finishing at around 7:20pm. From there, you are welcome to squeeze in some late-night shopping or make your way home with your lantern. A real Christmas treat!

The procession itself is not led by members of school staff, but children and families from school will be accompanied in the procession by myself, Mr Hampton, Miss Shopland and other Haytor View members of staff. You may wish to accompany your child yourself or make arrangements with friends or family members to attend with them. It's up to you, but the safety of your child during the procession is the responsibility of those they are attending with. We are really keen that as many children as possible are able to attend what should be a really memorable evening in the build up to Christmas. To help us know who we are expecting, we'd be really grateful if you could complete the reply slip coming home with your child today. Where possible, we will try to bring lanterns of those unable to attend back to school with us.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Manley

Year 5 Learning Leader