



Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Newton Abbot Christmas Lantern Parade – Wednesday 14th December 2022

As you know already, on Monday we had a successful trip to The Avenue Church to work with artist Tony Gee (and others!) to create wonderful mouse lanterns for this year's Lantern Parade. Due to our fantastic behaviour, we were also allowed to help the artists decorate the larger dragon lantern.

Now that the lanterns have been made it is time to invite you and your child to the parade! This is a wonderful experience for all and it would be lovely to see as many of you on Wednesday 14th December as possible. If you would like to attend we would ask you to bring your child to Bearnas school playground at 6:00pm, where myself and other adults from school will meet your child at the gate and will take them onto the playground to retrieve their lantern.

It has been requested that once your child is dropped off to a Haytor View adult, you wait outside the front of the school and do not join them in the playground. This is to avoid overcrowding 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 at the front of the school, and invite parents and families to join us in walking together as part of a procession across Newton Abbot, to arrive at the clocktower around 7:00pm. This is when we enjoy the story 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 Mrs Hodgson. 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 parents, family members or friends that 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 – we'll try our best to make sure that the lanterns of those attending are ready for action. 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