



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMERLEA C.P. SCHOOL

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'Growing thoughtful learners and independent thinkers'



Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week has seen the start of advent and it has been wonderful to hear our EYFS and Year 2 children busy practising songs for their forthcoming Christmas nativity and production. The weather has also turned and there was great excitement on Monday when there was a light dusting of snow on the ground at school.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment and the Omicron Variant

Following the emergence of the Omicron Variant, the Department for Education (DfE) have updated their operational guidance for schools twice this week.

They are now recommending that, in primary schools, face coverings are worn by staff and adults (including visitors) moving around in corridors and communal areas. We are also encouraging parents to wear masks at drop off and pick up, especially if conversing with staff.

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are not expected to undertake contact tracing. A key change is that all individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation. For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged.

I am in the process of reviewing our school's risk assessment and as previously this will be published on our website and can be viewed by going to School Information > Covid 19 > Risk assessments & outbreak management plan.

If attending the EYFS nativity or Year 2 production next week, we will require everyone in the audience to wear face coverings please when they enter the building and also in the hall, unless exempt. In addition, we would like to strongly encourage visitors to the school to take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending these Christmas performances.



Thank you for your continued support in following government and local authority advice, as well as our own individual school's risk assessment and preventative measures, in order to help keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible.

Staffing news

We are delighted to have appointed Miss Funnell to the position of Sports Coach. Miss Funnell started with us on Monday this week and will be working closely with Miss Walker to continue to build and promote great sports provision and opportunities across the school. We are also thrilled that Mrs Corley Black will be joining the After School Care Club team in January as ASSC Assistant.

Clubs

A reminder that all clubs finish today for the autumn term apart from After School Care Club which will continue to run up until Thursday 16th December. Clubs running in the spring term will be issued shortly – please ensure slips are returned before the end of term.

Christmas cards

Christmas cards are a fundamental and great part of Christmas and the opportunity to send good wishes to friends is highly valued. The handling of Christmas cards for delivering, and the sheer volume of cards in school, prior to the change we made some years ago, was a growing concern. We calculated that if every child sent a card to each member of their class there would be over 13,500 cards sent in school! Add to this; cards to other friends, teachers and learning support assistants, other staff and the adults' own contributions and it might be somewhere in the region of 16,500 (plus) cards. As a result of considering these amazing figures for one primary school and in light of our Eco School Status, it was decided to try and cut down this amount.

Following the success and positive feedback from parents/carers, staff and pupils in previous years, Christmas card arrangements this year will be the same as last year as follows:

- Children can make/buy one card to send to their class (home-made cards are welcome).
- Each child will be given the opportunity to present their card to their class by their teacher.
- All cards will be displayed in classrooms and a class 'winning' card will be chosen.
- All 'winning' cards will be brought together from each class in a virtual assembly; the best 3 cards will be chosen, and prizes awarded at the end of term.
- All other cards that children may wish to send to friends should be distributed (with parent's help of course) outside of school please - given the current circumstances.

Christmas

We will be celebrating Christmas in a range of ways in school this year. All children will be watching a virtual pantomime in the last week of term (Cinderella) and each year group will also have a Christmas party on Friday 17th December. On this day, the children can come into school wearing their own/party clothes and there will be no PE. We will provide the children with a sweet/savoury treat and a drink (water/squash). They do not need to bring in any extra food themselves. Please ensure we are aware of any allergies. If you have any questions about this please speak to your child's class teacher.

A reminder that Thursday 16th December is not only Christmas Cowbell Assembly (see more information about how to enter and the deadline on Class Dojo) but also Christmas jumper day and Chartwells Christmas lunch! Children may wear a Christmas themed jumper with their school uniform/PE kit for a suggested voluntary contribution of £1 to go to FOSS.

A Christmas Story comic for each class in Key Stage 1 and 2 has also kindly been gifted to the school by Littlehampton Churches and is actually written and illustrated by one of our parents! To have a look / make a purchase please visit: cpo.org.uk > Christmas Resources > The Christmas Story Children's Activity Comic.

FOSS Sweetie Competition

Congratulations to Elder and Maple Class who won the FOSS sweetie competition! There will be FOSS 'pop up' sweet shops on the playgrounds after school on Monday 6th and Thursday 9th December.

Libby Library

Libby is a free app where you can borrow e-books, digital audiobooks, and magazines from your public library. You can stream titles with Wi-Fi or mobile data, or download them for offline use and read anytime, anywhere. All you need to get started is a library card. This may benefit children at home to borrow books online and also listen to audio books. For children who struggle with reading, they can use Libby to follow along with an audio recording. Please see the attached information about Libby Library.

Science club blog

Mrs Hawkins has been busy updating the science page on our school website which now includes a science blog with information and photos. Please do take a look by going to Our School > Curriculum & Assessment > Core Subjects > Science.

Sports kit

If your child has participated in a Locality Area Sports Partnership (LASP) event this term please ensure any sports kit is returned to school by the end of term. This can be passed to either Miss Walker or Miss Funnell.

Volunteer safeguarding training

Unfortunately, we were unable to go ahead with our volunteer safeguarding training this week due to lack of uptake. Another training date will be offered for the spring term and we strongly encourage all volunteers to come along if they possibly can. In the meantime, information about safeguarding for volunteers will be shared with our volunteers shortly.

48 hour rule and Calpol

A reminder that if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea that they must stay off school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and feel well, as per our school policy and NHS guidance. If you have had to give your child Calpol in the morning, then they should not come to school as this can mask symptoms and result in them having to be sent home later in the day.

Toys

A reminder, particularly to our parents of younger children, that toys should not be being brought into school without prior permission and agreement with the class teacher. This includes 'Elf on the Shelf' and other soft toys. If toys do find their way into school they will be looked after by the class teacher and returned at the end of the day. Thank you for your support.

Communication box

Please do use our communication box at the front doors to the office (the letterbox on the right-hand side) for dropping off forms, slips, payments etc. This is a secure drop-off point, is emptied daily and saves things having to go via classrooms.

Wishing you all a happy and safe festive weekend.

Yours sincerely

Helen Morris

Headteacher

Attachments:

Help With...



Libby

Signing up to LIBBY

1. Download and install the app from the Google Play store or the Apple Store and then click to **Open** the program. (To access **LIBBY** on a laptop or PC, go to <https://libbyapp.com>).



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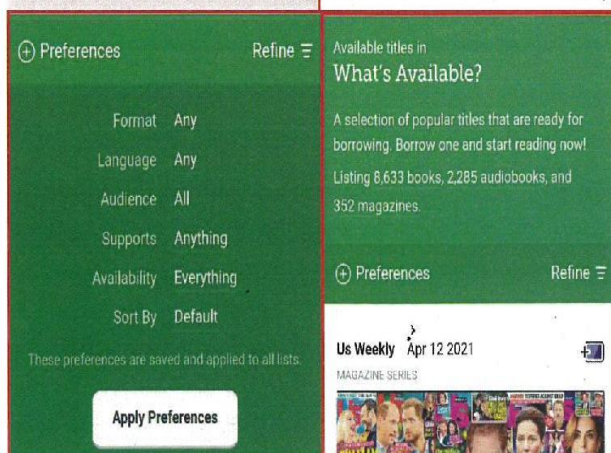
Welcome! Thousands of public libraries offer ebooks and audiobooks (for free!) in Libby. Let me ask you a few questions, to guide you to your library.

First question: do you have
a library card?

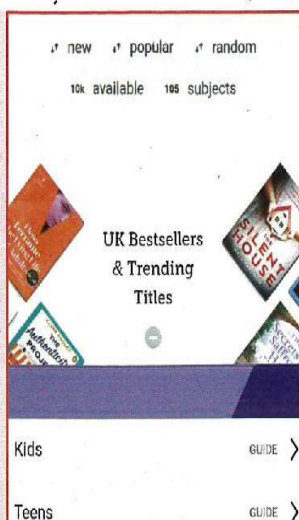
Yes Not Yet

2. Next, follow the app instructions (left). Click **Not Yet**, if you haven't yet registered with West Sussex Libraries (you will need to!) but **Yes** if you do have a card. You will need to enter your library card number and PIN.

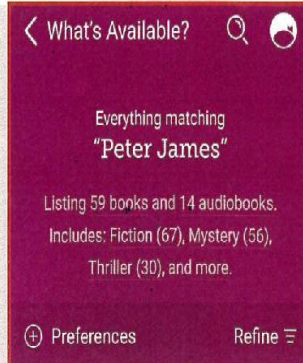
3. This is the **LIBBY** home page (right). Click **Available** to search across all formats. To select from just books, audiobooks or magazines, scroll down and select **Preferences**, and then **Format**, as shown below (left). To confirm your choice tap **Apply Preferences**.



4. Once you have selected a format, choose from **New**, **Popular**, **Random**, **Available** or **Subjects**. For each choice you will be able to **Refine** your search, for example by author or title.



4. The image (right) shows the results of a search for the author **Peter James**. Note that all formats, including audiobooks, have been included.



5. To borrow a book, magazine or audiobook, look at the information next to the jacket illustration. If the first option is **Borrow**, (below left) the book is available. Tap the word **Borrow** and the next screen will say **You are borrowing [title] for 21 days**. At the foot of the screen is a large red button which says **Borrow!** Tap that and the item is yours. At the end of the period the book will simply vanish from your record.



6. If the first words next to the jacket illustration are **Place Hold** (above, right), this title is not currently available. Click **Place Hold** and you will be told approximately how long you will have to wait for a copy to become available.

7. To search for Comics and Graphic Novels, click on **Subjects**, then **Sort**, to select A-Z search. Then scroll down until you come to **Comics and Graphic Books** (shown left). From there you can browse as with other categories.

8. For help while using **LIBBY**, click on the logo (bottom of your screen) and then **Get some help** (below left). You can type your query in the search box (below-right) or scroll down for some FAQs.

SUBJECTS	
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3 Biology	>
71 Business	>
33 Careers	>
1 Chemistry	>
12 Christian Fiction	>
252 Classic Literature	>
1,875 Comic and Graphic Books	>

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HIDE

How can we help?



Ask a question, or search for a topic.
You can also browse our [Help site](#).

For help with eLibrary products please email:
library.digital.support@westsussex.gov.uk.

This guide has been produced by West Sussex County Council
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CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT

1st - 23rd DECEMBER

Join us for a Treasure Hunt around our store. Find all six Christmas gonks hidden across our departments to redeem a treat. Enter our National Prize Draw for a chance to win JL&P gift cards, ranging from £20 - £500!

Visit the **Customer Services Department** at JL&P Chichester to find out more.

T&Cs Apply. Full T&Cs supplied on the entry form.

