



# Newsletter

Dear Friends of Stubbins School,  
What a year 2020 has been! A year of sadness and despair, but also of hope and a new sense of togetherness. At Stubbins, we have been looking ahead to the New Year and beyond. We have realised just how much we have had to adapt and learn. Many of the new ways of working and thinking are good and we want to keep them going forward. As we move into a new phase of the pandemic, with vaccines being rolled out and a new expectation of 'normality', I hope we remember the lessons we have all learned about our own resilience, the importance of those around us and just how amazing we all are! We look forward to 2021 with a renewed sense of purpose and a resolve to hold on to the positives from 2020.



## The Scarf

I have been asked many times over the last few weeks about the scarf that I wear during the winter months. There is a story behind it, and I thought it was worth sharing – I hope you don't think it too indulgent!

My mother was always very good at sewing and knitting, skills learned at the Bradford Institute for the Blind where she was taught to unpick and invisibly mend items made by the blind to raise funds for the institute. She was 14. Throughout my childhood, I proudly watched my mother make many of my clothes, coats, jumpers – you name it. There are many embarrassing photographs to prove it which I will not share. She also used her skills to make bunting for the annual Carnival – yards and yards of it which stretched up our street and displayed remnants of the family's cast-off clothing cut into triangles. Mum made covers for the pew cushions at the local church, knitted toys for various charities and of course every baby that entered the family wore a knitted cardigan and was warmed by a crocheted blanket – all hand made by her, with love.

About 15 years ago, my mother began to find knitting more difficult – arthritis in the fingers and failing eyesight. The first indication was a refusal to knit anything navy blue. Mum was about to discard the carrier bags filled with the remains of balls of wool left over from the many things she had made. I asked if she would knit me one more thing – use the wool oddments to knit me a scarf. It wasn't easy for her, I knew that, and it was abundantly clear that she found the task emotional – not only because of the memories which flooded back with each colour she found in those bags, but also because she completed the task with love, just as she had always done. The scarf was presented to me as a Christmas present and I have treasured it ever since. Mum is now in a care home and has dementia. Her memories are fading. I will never replace the scarf. It holds the memories that Mum may no longer be able to hold, and most importantly, it bears the love that Mum lavished onto every knitted item over the years, and finally onto the scarf itself. I do not remember most of the gifts I have received for Christmas, but I will always remember this. It may be a collection of odd bits of wool that were going to be discarded, but it is the most valuable thing in the world to me. May the gifts we give this Christmas not be measured by their monetary value, but by the love that is invested in them.

To receive this Newsletter by email, simply contact [head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk).

*Mr. J. DANSON*

### Virtual Tour of the School

If you visit the school website, you will find a 'Virtual Tour of the School' which is presented by Emma, Tobias, Freya and Max. We are very proud of it – take a look!



### Christmas Lights Trail - 18-31st December

Following the success of the Pumpkin Trail we have the Christmas Lights Trail. This features an Advent Calendar themed hunt for added fun, can you find all the doors?

The event is free to take part but voluntary donations will gratefully be received and can be made here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stubbinschristmas>

Please share your photos on the Facebook Event which can be

found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/305017647441776>

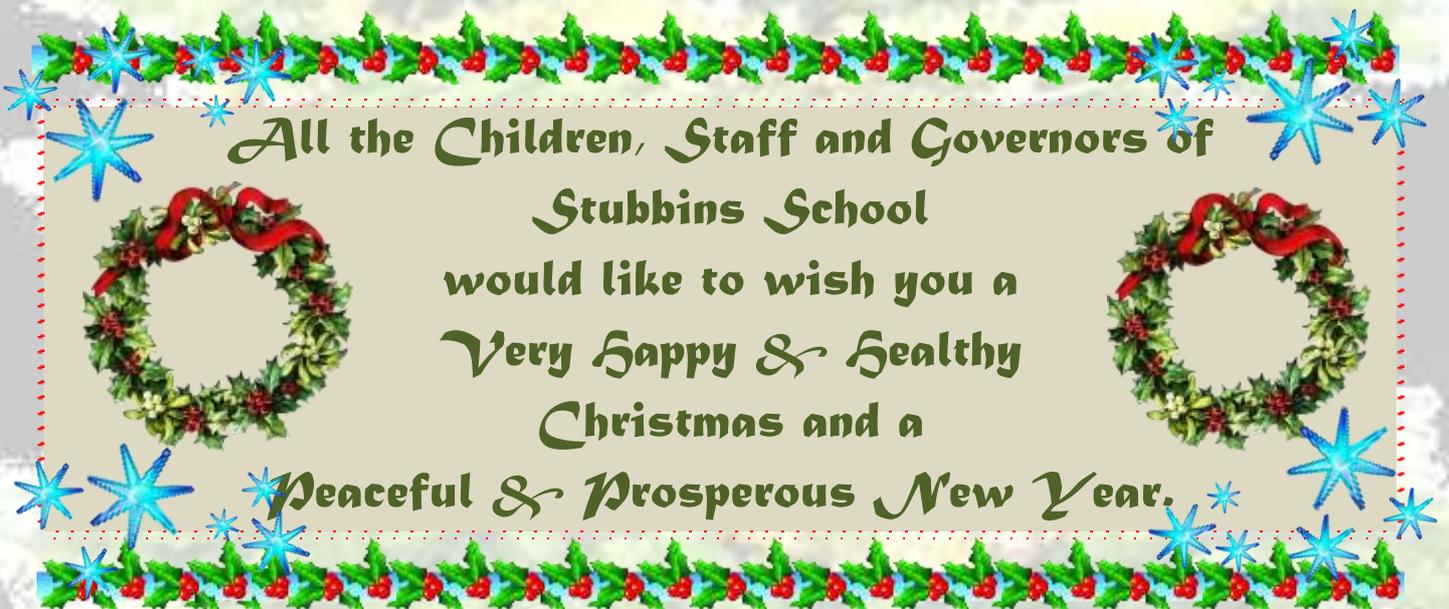
**Address list and door hunt form available to download on the PTA page of the Stubbins School Website.**

### Returning in January

The children return to school on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. Please note that we will still be working under the current restrictions and staggered drop-off and pick-up times. If any child, or member of their household, has COVID-19 symptoms, they should not be in school. Anyone with symptoms should seek a Coronavirus test and follow the latest self-isolation guidance.

### After-School Sports Clubs

We are pleased to announce that Year 2 and Year 4 will have the opportunity to attend an after-school 'MultiSports' sports club in the New Year. Year 4 on Wednesdays and Year 2 on Thursdays. A flyer is attached to this newsletter.



*Many of us will be missing someone around the dinner table over Christmas, and I am sure that we will all be raising a glass to 'Absent Friends'. Enjoy the holiday, but most of all:*

*Stay Well ☺*

*Mr. J. Danson*

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