



Parental Voice: Christmas Clothing Questionnaire - The Results 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Thank you for the volume of responses we received for our recent Parental Voice questionnaire. It is lovely to hear the ideas and suggestions made. Whilst we cannot please everyone all of the time, we aim to listen to and respond to your thoughts whenever we are able to.

You will be pleased to hear that 99% of parents who responded felt that a Christmas jumper 'shop' is a good idea and welcome this opportunity.

'Swap shop is a really good idea :)'

'Maybe ask for donations of old jumpers for families that cannot afford things so children don't miss out'

Therefore, we will be organising a one-off Christmas jumper 'pop-up shops' on November 30th across both sites at home-time. If you have Christmas jumpers you no longer need, which are clean and in good condition, please send them in to us as soon as possible.

The Christmas Nativity Concert details have been shared with all families on our Class Dojo app. In response to parental voice, we have listened to your wishes for a traditional nativity story being re-told. We also have a wide variety of opportunities for traditional costumes, Christmas/festive clothing and Christmas jumpers across our whole school, depending on the ages of our children.

Here is a sample of some of the numerous thoughts and suggestions we received:

'Give children the options in juniors as some like to dress up and others may not. However if the school does a swap shop I'm sure a lot of support would be given.'

'Like to see my youngest in a traditional nativity as we missed out on so much since covid too. My eldest in year 6 would prefer a jumper & accessories.'

'My answers are dependent on my child's age now (year 6). It really depends on age. My daughter and parents/carers absolutely loved the nativity concerts in primary school, they are what makes a school concert for me. Having 2 children I have done both, made a costume and bought nativity costumes. I must admit I like the tradition angel costume for example, plain, but nowadays these costumes have gotten 'best costume' which does spoil it and cost is more. Over the years this has been noticed. As

children do get older, I feel a Christmas jumper fits them as they grow out of costume wearing. Going forward maybe a swap shop for nativity costumes and/or accept donation from old costumes for those who struggle to buy?’

‘I think Christmas jumpers for the junior’s works well. For infants there is something special about seeing your child in nativity costumes and is more traditional, especially as some have missed out on this tradition as a result of covid. The cost is comparable to a Christmas jumper and a swap shop could be arranged, similar to the Christmas jumper suggestion. Vinted is also a great option for both.’

This year, our infants and our juniors will both be sharing a traditional Christmas nativity story with you at the church. Our school halls are small and due to being one of the largest primary schools in the whole of Neath Port Talbot, we would not be able to fit all of our families onto school site, whilst abiding by strict fire regulations. We are highly grateful to Father Ben and all at St. Theodore’s who allow us to use their lovely church so that we can fit our children, staff and families in at once!

If your child has been asked to wear a costume and you are unable to get hold of one easily, PLEASE speak to staff immediately as we can help. Our families are so kind and generous and many will have spare costumes in their cupboards or attics which they are happy to donate.

‘...There are loads on Vinted, Facebook etc. being sold as cheap as £2.’

‘...I’m sure people will be happy to help and donate!’

As an inclusive school, we understand that some children are not happy to dress up. 60% of parents who responded felt that Christmas jumpers/festive colours were more inclusive and families wanted to choose what they wanted their children to wear. Some year groups have a choice from a variety of costumes. We are also fully supportive of your child wearing festive colours instead – whatever works for your child. Please let us know if you are struggling and need our help.

Our staff and children are busy learning their songs and their parts in our Nativity plays and we look forward to sharing them with you.

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and ideas. We value our whole school community and your suggestions all help to shape our school, making it the best it can be!

Mrs. Hopkins

Headteacher

