

# SASCS NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2021

This term has seen SASCS return to operating from one base in the Dining Hall and everyone seems to have settled well into this routine again. Although the noise level of 85 children in one room took a bit of getting used to!!

December 2021 has been, as always, a very Christmassy month at SASCS. The children have had the opportunity to be involved in Christmas crafts every day, which nearly always involve a lot of sparkle!! Sally and Holly (SASCS Play Leaders) have organised and delivered a total of 11 advent calendars and every child attending after school club has taken part in advent, involving challenges, quizzes, guess the song, who am I and lots and lots of chocolate!!

In the playground, lots of children and staff have enjoyed the return to the darker nights and having fun with glow sticks and glow in the dark equipment!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

SASCS will close early at 4.00pm on the last day of term,

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Christmas Holidays - SASCS Closed

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

SASCS will reopen for both Breakfast and After School Care services.

*Please be aware that SASCS will follow any change to guidance for the school should the Scottish Government introduce any changes re covid-19, Omicron variant, during the holiday period. Such as a delayed reopening of the school.*

### FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CARE 2022

The February Holidays will run from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022, inclusive. SASCS is hoping to be able to operate a Holiday Care Service over this week however given the general uncertainty surrounding the new variant of COVID-19 and the additional mitigations that this may require Sonia and Lindsey intend to follow up on this with the Lets Department on our return in January 2022. We will be in touch with all parents/carers via email as soon as we know if it will be possible for us to operate during this Holiday period. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN

As many of you already know Santa's elves have been very busy getting Christmas Presents ready for all children who attend SASCS Breakfast or After School Club, Monday to Friday each week. SASCS Staff Team and Management Committee all agreed that the children definitely deserved this treat, especially this year given all the changing COVID-19 mitigations and restrictions they have taken in their stride.

Most children will receive their gift on the first day they attend After School Club during week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. If children are absent from SASCS on this day staff will make sure their present is added to the bag for the next day they are due to attend after school club. If your children will not attend SASCS at all during this week it would be helpful if they could pop down to pick up their present at the end of the school day, when they would normally attend after school club. We will make sure that the presents are ready so that children can collect them quickly and then return to the playground to meet whoever is taking them home. Children who only attend our Breakfast Club service will receive their gift during Breakfast Club.

We'd like to thank all parents/carers in advance for their help with this.

## ALLOCATION OF NEW PLACES - UPDATE

We understand that many parents and families are anxiously waiting to hear when we will be able to offer places for their child/children at our after school and/or breakfast club services and appreciate your patience over the last few months.

As many of you may remember, we were unable to offer many new places from the waiting list at the start of the new school year, in August, whilst we were operating from three bases as both our P1-P2 and our P3-P4 bases were full.

Our hope had been that once we were back to operating from one base and staff and children had settled into this new routine we would be in a position to offer available places to those on the waiting list, with a start date of January 2022.

We were starting to make plans to offer places when there began to be talk in the media and from the Scottish Government of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant. As you will be aware, this new variant is causing renewed uncertainty across all sectors and as we write this, we are waiting to hear from Nicola Sturgeon, this afternoon where it is possible she will tighten the restrictions currently in place.

Whilst we are still operating from our main base in the dining hall, now, we have received information from the Scottish Government, which suggests that we may be required to re-introduce additional mitigations. We feel that this suggests that it is possible that we will be required to return to operating with smaller groups of children accommodated within our three bases, even if only for a short time, in January 2022. If this is to happen, we will return to a situation, where our P1-P2 and P3-P4 bases are operating at full capacity. Therefore, unfortunately we feel we need to delay any offer of new places until this situation becomes clearer and we receive further guidance from the Scottish Government as to whether or not we will be required to reintroduce additional restrictions and mitigations, in particular operation from multiple bases.

This was not the news that we had hoped to be getting in touch with and we understand not what parents/carers were hoping to hear. Please be assured that we will be reviewing this situation again on our return from the Christmas Holidays and hope to be in touch very soon in the New Year with more positive news.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR JANUARY 2022

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of two important SASCS policies, both of which help to ensure the smooth, safe daily operations of our after school care service. The policies are attached, to this email if you wish to read them in full. SASCS Staff team greatly appreciate your continued help and support with these.

### Non-notification of Child's Absence

In order to ensure the safety of children attending after school club the Care Inspectorate allocate SASCS 10 minutes from the end of the school day to account for all children. We therefore ask that all parents / carers get in touch with SASCS office via email ([sascs@sascs.org.uk](mailto:sascs@sascs.org.uk)) or our office landline (0131 662 4810) if their child/children will be absent from SASCS for any reason. This allows us to inform SASCS Staff Team of the child's absence at our daily briefing session and means staff can more easily collect / prompt the children who should be attending SASCS and quickly return to our playroom. If we are unaware of a child's absence staff must check with reception staff/teachers to confirm if the child attended school; look for the child in the playground/school building and/or telephone parents to confirm the child's attendance or not at SASCS. This process can bypass the 10 minutes we have to account for all children and takes staff out of our playroom for a longer period of time, which can have a knock on effect to our after school club daily schedule and activities.

### Late Collection of Children

SASCS closes at 5.40pm each day Monday to Friday during term time. We appreciate that occasionally unavoidable circumstances may occur which result in parents/carers arriving late to collect their child/children and should this happen ask that you phone SASCS landline (0131 662 4810) to inform us of your approximate arrival time to allow us to reassure your children that you are on your way. All parents / carers should be aware that SASCS does operate a Late Collection Policy, which includes financial penalties for repeated late collection of children. The full policy is attached alongside this newsletter and explains the possible implication for SASCS staff team when children are collected after our closing time of 5.40pm.

Thank you again for your help and understanding with both of these policies and procedures.

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!



From Everyone at  
SASCS