



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs.J.Kingston

18th December 2020.

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week has been such a happy time in school. The children have been amazing and have made it a pleasure to come to work each morning. We all know what a difficult year it has been but the way your children have coped is a credit to you all. I also want to thank all the staff for their dedication and ensuring the children were able to enjoy as much normality as possible this Christmastime. We had lots of fun on Christmas dinner day and are very grateful that our school cooks wanted to give the children a Christmas dinner as many other schools did not.

As 2020 draws to a close it is important to look back at what we have learnt from these unprecedented circumstances and what we can take forward to improve life next year and the years after.

In our school community there have been so many acts of kindness for each other it has been quite overwhelming. Staff have particularly appreciated your support and are especially grateful for the generous gifts given this year. Many people speak of how they have enjoyed a quieter pace of life and vow to not rush headlong into filling every moment when "normal" life returns.

The elder children, in particular, have enjoyed having a space in the playground to themselves and so we will arrange for this to still happen regularly when we return to usual times. However, we have all missed whole school assemblies and playtimes and very much look forward to being able to do this again.

This morning we had 7 mini assemblies where each class came into the Hall to see who have been awarded the termly learning skills and citizen awards. Well done to the worthy winners. They were:

Learning Skills:

Sharada, Bethany, Chloe, Nayla, Ellie, Tommy, Dareen.

Citizen:

Dylan, Ayesha, Max, Rhys, Kaleb, Keagan, Seth.



Each class also had a Christmas party this afternoon, with the food provided by the PTFA in lieu of the usual Christmas disco. It was lovely to see and hear them all having such fun! Father Christmas even made an appearance!

Christmas Masses:

Unfortunately, there are no Christmas Masses or services in Holy Cross Church or school this year. However, there a number of other nearby churches who are holding Mass on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. However, to avoid disappointment please check online to see if you need to book.

<https://cliftondiocese.com/advent-2020-mass-times/>

Coronavirus update:

I would like to thank you all for helping us to stay as safe as possible by not sending in children who displayed Covid symptoms this week.

I fully understand how hard this was as no-one wanted the children to miss out on any Christmas fun this week. However, at this historical moment in time, we do have to think of our wider community and how our actions may put others at risk. I appreciate that being told that your child needs a test and them and their siblings have to stay off school and, therefore, miss Christmas dinner and their class party is upsetting and perhaps frustrating but the guidelines from government are very clear. We have to ask that your child has a test if they have a cough – even if you believe it is just a cold. Many children, in other settings, who have tested positive have had runny noses as one of their symptoms.

During the Christmas holidays and in January, the guidelines will be the same, although we are very hopeful things will change when the vaccination programme is more established. Information was sent out earlier this week on what to do if your child develops symptoms during the holiday period. Contained in that information was a timetable showing the dates children needed to self-isolate until if they have a positive test result during the school holiday period.

If your child develops Covid 19 symptoms during the holiday period, it is essential you let us know so we can inform those who may have been close contacts. Please do this by sending a message on the usual school comms text messaging service or e mail me personally on my work mobile 07384450567. I will be checking messages every day during the holiday so please do not worry about sending a message at any time.

If we are informed of a positive case then a message will be sent out via the usual text messenger service and a reply will be requested. Please do reply as, if we do not receive a text message reply, then I will need to phone you to check you are aware of the need for self-isolation of your child.

The period of isolation after being in contact with a positive case of Covid has been reduced to 10 days.



Christmas Productions:

All the Christmas productions are now on the website. The EYFS dance, Y1 and Y2 Class Nativities, KS2 Carol service and the KS2 Talent show have all been uploaded.

They are wonderful performances and helped us all remember the true meaning of Christmas. Please spend some time watching them with the children. We have watched them in school and the children loved seeing themselves on the big screen. We have such a talented group of children here at Holy Cross. Thank you to all the staff who helped make the productions so successful and enjoyable for the children.

Attendance:

We are pleased to say that after a period of close monitoring of individual attendance we have noticed an improvement in the majority of cases. Thank you for your support in this matter. If you would like to discuss any attendance issues, please make an appointment with Mrs James.

Community larder/fridge:

If you need any support during the holidays the foodbank at St Paul's Church on Coronation Road has food and toys for Christmas which families can be given for anyone needing extra help.

If you need any foodbank vouchers or extra food parcels over the Christmas period, please use the school messenger service and they can be made available for you to collect.

Domestic Abuse Support:

Please remember if you need help we can put you in contact with the Assertive Outreach Domestic Abuse Advisor for the Families in Focus Team in south Bristol. Support can be given in the following ways:

Work with victims of domestic abuse (both current and in the past) who have been unable to move forward with their lives as a result of this in the following ways:

- Through regular phone calls/zooms etc to discuss the situation and how best to progress to enable the best outcome for them and their children
- Work with victims to identify what DV is and the ways that it may manifest itself (coercive control etc)
- Help victims to gain more self-confidence and self esteem
- Risk assessment
- Safety Planning
- Referral to Freedom Programmes
- Support families to flee their domestic abuse and have links to the Safe Houses throughout Bristol, South Glos, North Somerset and further afield
- Take part in professionals meetings to support and advocate for victims.



Final thoughts:

Whilst avoiding the rain last Sunday, I stumbled across a Christmas musical on Netflix which passed the time in a jolly (or as my family thought "cheesy"!) way. For those of you who know my love of country music know anything with Dolly Parton in has to be a winner for me!

The lyrics of one song stuck in my mind and I thought they were an appropriate way to end this final newsletter of 2020:

**Christmas is a time for caring, Being at your best.
Christmas is a time for sharing, Knowing you've been blessed
Christmas is a time for giving, Love is made of this.
That's what Christmas is.**

Give this song a listen if you have time:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Za-eum8l4f0&list=RDZa-eum8l4f0&start_radio=1&safe=active

I hope you all have a wonderful, happy and peaceful Christmas break with your families and that you continue to stay safe over the festive period. We are all so very hopeful that the New Year will see a decrease in positive cases and death rates due to Covid 19. Please continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for all those affected by Covid 19 as well as those who care for them.

We look forward to welcoming back staff only on Monday 4th January and **the pupils on Tuesday 5th January.**

As always, thank you for your understanding and support.



Mrs Kingston

Important Dates:

Monday 4th January – INSET: School closed to pupils.

Tuesday 5th January – School reopens to pupils.

