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Newsletter no. 6

17th December 2020

Upcoming events

Monday 4th January
School closed for INSET

Tuesday 5th January
Pupils return to school

Thursday 7th January
Kerri Leask (Operation
Encompass) in Y4

As you will see, there is not a lot currently planned for our return. Until we are confident that visitors and visits are compliant with our Risk Assessment, this will be the case.

Dear Parents

As we approach the Christmas holidays, you can feel the excitement levels rising across school. We have tried our hardest to make the run up to Christmas as 'normal' and enjoyable as possible, whilst still maintaining the strict guidelines we have in place. I would like to say how incredibly proud I am of each and every member of our school community who consistently encourage our pupils to meet the values of respect, tolerance and friendship during these trying times.

Supporting others

This Christmas period is, and will be, a very difficult one for many families; those who we know and don't know. The many ways that our pupils and parents have supported these families have been wonderful. The Hope for Christmas fund currently stands at £135, above our target of £100, and we are still requesting that any spare change that you may have spent on cards is donated to this cause via the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/St-Joseph-s-Primary-School-Jarrow-Tyne-and-Wear>

I am delighted with the generosity of our local community and members of our school in helping to provide for those in need this Christmas. An example of this was when our School Council worked with Morrisons to create food hampers for the elderly. Additionally, Christmas presents and gifts of food have been donated to support families in our local area through our involvement with Hedworthfield CA and Norah's North Pole. These, and many more actions, show how our school is educating pupils in much more than just English and maths: we are teaching them about their role in society, how to care for others and be a good human being.

Nativities and Carols by Candlelight

We hope that you enjoyed our videos (available on your website) which hopefully alleviated any of the sadness caused by not having 'live' events this Christmas. We know your children will have done you proud! Any feedback you would like to share would be greatly appreciated through our usual email address.

Car Parking

A bit of a Christmas moan! We have had a number of complaints of unhelpful parking and driving in the Church car park, including parking in the presbytery spaces. We are fortunate to have this facility but this may be removed from us if the difficulties continue. I have been informed of cars driving on the path - I am sure I do not need to express my concerns over this. I know that it is difficult, especially with the CA closed in the mornings, but I urge you to consider everyone when you park and to consider walking or cycling to school where and when possible.

Track and Trace

As a school, we are still the first point of call for any track and trace queries for our pupils. I have attached a separate letter to this newsletter explaining the process. It is important to note that from December 24th onwards, any queries must go through the normal NHS track and trace systems. The school email will not be checked again until the start of the Spring term.

School reopening

It is our intention that we will fully reopen on Tuesday, 5th January 2021 to all of our pupils as normal. The same procedures for coming into school will apply, with the same times and expectations of social distancing. However, we are uncertain as to how the relaxed measures advised by the Government will affect local regulations in the New Year. Decisions on school opening will be based on this advice and will be made on Monday, 4th January. There will be no decisions made before this date, so please do not expect correspondence from school before this time. We will also not be checking emails before this date so please do not be offended if we do not reply immediately.

...And Finally

I want to wish you all the very best for the Christmas and New Year period. I fully appreciate that this year there is far more uncertainty about everyone's holiday plans – What will be possible? What is sensible? How do we keep each other safe? 2020 has certainly been a year like no other, but whatever you choose to do I hope you have a safe and relaxing time.



Take care,

Mr P Craig