



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy

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2nd December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a busy few weeks and it about to get even busier. Whilst we cannot celebrate Christmas in the usual way, we hope to mark this occasion and ensure that pupils not only enjoy the end of term, but also remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Firstly, to celebrate some of the successes of our pupils and the school community over the last few weeks. The Race for Life event was enjoyed by all and raised an amazing £4500. Thank you to you for your generous donations and very well done to 100% of the pupils who engaged fully and didn't give up at all. They were very pleased to receive their medals.

We marked Anti-bullying week this year with a focus on diversity and celebrating difference, starting with Odd Socks Day. Pupils completed activities across the school to show that it is good to be different and learned the message 'United Together'. Here are a few examples of their work across the age groups:



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Rainbow Day

Thank you all for your wonderful generosity on Rainbow Day. This is the time of year when the PTFA usually do a large amount of their fundraising, however, due to current restrictions the usual Christmas fundraising events cannot take place. Please therefore support the raffle if you can. Tickets are available until the end of this week. We were overwhelmed with badge orders – we will fulfil these and will get them to you as soon as we receive them. The raffle will be drawn on **Tuesday 8th December**.



World Gifts – Each year we ask for donations to the CAFOD World Gifts as an alternative to distributing Christmas Cards. This means that children can affect others on a global scale. This year WE CANNOT HAVE children sharing Christmas Cards in school. We will again be asking the children to donate the money that they would have spent on cards to this cause. We would welcome a donation of £1. Due to the current circumstances, we hope to make this our best year of donations to this charity. When a donation is made, your child's name is added to the whole class card and is shared by the class teacher. This is what your money will go towards:

https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw28T8BRDbARIsAEOMBcyKZ3mQbvjwy z0EY5Vs5qnYdSuNGd-aZTK15k45ImyLstIXV5Mb65EaAtwZEALw_wcB

Christmas celebrations – the start of the Christmas season will be marked by a whole school **Advent Mass on Friday 4th December**, celebrated with Fr Julius and C10 in the hall and broadcast across the rest of the school. This will be the day that we will be decorating the school. Children have been asked to make advent promises across all ages from Reception to Y6 in order to prepare themselves for Christmas – please ask them about this.



Nursery and Reception Nativity – this year, we are unable to do a Nativity performance with an audience. However, the staff and children are still working on preparing a short nativity performance, which we hope to be able to share with the



relevant parents as a download via Teams. A separate letter will come out regarding details. This will be shared during the final week of term.

Carol Service – Singing is one of the activities that we are not allowed to do on mass at this time. Therefore, we will be producing a service to showcase some of the children's religious art work, accompanied by a nativity story and music, narrated by pupils. This will be made available for parents to watch from home via your child's Teams account. Again, more details to follow closer to the end of term.



Christmas Dinner will be served on **Tuesday 15th December**. Please look out for messages regarding the menu via MarvellousMe.

Christmas Jumper day – Thursday 17th December – Children can dress in casual clothes – the more Christmassy the better! Please send a donation of £1 towards the PTFA fund.

PTFA surprises – there will be a few surprises for Christmas celebrations at the end of term for your children...but we are keeping these under our festive hats.

Gifts for staff – I have had a couple of queries regarding gifts for teachers this Christmas. These are always welcomed. If received, they will leave these gifts for a few days before handling. Many thanks to those who have considered this as your child's teachers are working so very hard to help children catch up from time missed whilst providing for those who have to self-isolate.



Early closure – If there are any shops open...you might be able to get to them early on **Friday 18th December**! All pupils will finish school ONE HOUR before their usual finish time. (Please see the table below to confirm times).



Messages from the Junior Health and Safety Officers

Some of you may have seen the signs around the environment made by our Junior Health and Safety Officers (they take their role very seriously). The messages that they chose to share with you as adults are:

- Keep your distance from others
- Wear a mask
- Park safely

These were chosen by the children without prompting and were issues that they have spotted within the parent population. Here are their messages:



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Illness due to COVID during the weekend – should your child test positive over the course of a weekend, you must email the school on office address on the date that



you receive the results, as this is very likely to result in the closure of a class bubble. We will check emails on a regular basis.

Illness due to COVID during the school holiday – should your child test positive for Corona Virus during the school holiday, you MUST email the school on the address above on the day that you receive the test results. It could be that others are affected and may need to self-isolate. We would contact families immediately, should this be the case.

Suspected cases of COVID within the household – We are surprised with how many families are getting this wrong. If there is a suspected COVID case in the household, i.e. someone is going for a test, then ALL other household members must self-isolate until the test results are received (and are hopefully negative). This is not a choice. Otherwise, you are potentially spreading COVID across our school, your work place and between wider family and friends. The speed of testing and obtaining results is so good now, often less than 24 hours. Please adhere to these rules.



Thank you to those who are following us on Twitter. This is only a 'good news' site, we will not be delivering notices through this medium. If you would like to follow us, the address is @StAntsWolves.

Dates for your calendar:

Friday 4 th December	9:15am Advent Mass Whole School (virtual)
Thursday 10 th December (pm)	Flu Vaccination (nasal)
w/b Monday 14 th December	Virtual Christmas Liturgy celebration
w/b Monday 14 th December	Virtual Nursery and Reception Nativity performance
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18 th December	Early dismissal as we break up for Christmas C1,2,6,7,8 finish at 1:50pm C3,4,5,9,10,11 finish at 2:10pm Afternoon Nursery finishes at 2:30pm
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21/12-Friday 1/1 SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 4 th January	School reopens – pupils return



Term dates:

Spring Term 2021

- Term Time: Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021
- Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021
- Term Time: Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

Summer Term 2021

- Term Time: Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021
- Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 to Friday 4 June 2021
- Term Time: Monday 7 June 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021

INSET DAYS (School closed to pupils):

- **Friday 12th February 2021**
- **Friday 28th May 2021**

