



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy

Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6NW

Principal: Mrs T Davis

Telephone: 01902 558935

Email: stanthonysoffice@cloudw.co.uk

www.stanthonyscatholicsschool.co.uk

18th December 2020,

Dear parents/carers,

We have reached the end of an exhausting term. However, within the midst of COVID restrictions we have plenty to celebrate.

Christmas preparation

The pupils have been involved in a number of experiences in preparation for Christmas. The children in Nursery and Reception have treated us to a delightful Nativity and those from Y1 through to Y6 produced a reflective Carol Service. We hope that you have all been able to share in your child's experiences via Microsoft Teams. We thank Father Julius for providing Mass at the start of Advent and for being part of the Carol Service.



It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas across school. Tuesday, many children joined us for Christmas dinner; thank you to our kitchen and dinner staff for making this happen so seamlessly. On Wednesday, a virtual production of Cinderella was enjoyed across the school, (...oh yes it was) and yesterday, a little elf announced a special visitor to Nursery, Reception and KS1 pupils, followed by a virtual visit from Santa himself! He knew all of the children's names (and checked that they were all on his good list) before reading them a Christmas story. The afternoon was filled with



Part of St Francis and St Clare Catholic Multi Academy,
a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number 08578428)

Christmas parties for each class bubble, with music, party food and games. A huge thank you to the members of the PTFA who have helped to provide these opportunities.

Charitable giving

This term you have been amazingly generous. Donations to the Brothers of the Good Shepherd were well received, making a difference to homeless and struggling families. Donations to The British Legion Poppy Appeal were so generous this year that we had to ask for additional merchandise! You raised a phenomenal total of £4555.51 for Cancer Research via the Race for Life event and we have had the best ever donation to CAFOD World Gifts via the Christmas Card appeal - £394.40. In January, the children will choose which gifts they are purchasing and we will share their choices with you. This means that as a community, you have helped those less fortunate locally, nationally and internationally! Well done.

You have also given great support to school fundraising activities, raising an amazing £2301.85 through the Rainbow Day raffle, pin sales and Christmas dress-up day. A huge thank you to the PTFA for the organisation of this. The prospect of losing the Christmas fete as a fundraiser was a worry this year, however, this generosity and support has been a welcomed alternative.

Developing Cultural Capital

The start of this half term saw pupils across all ages working on the message of 'United Together' and celebrating differences as part of Anti-bullying week. I was impressed with the quality of work and engagement. This work is to be further developed next term, when a group of pupils will be chosen to attend Peer Support training, provided by the Mental Health Support Team, in order to help others when social challenges arise.



Children in the upper juniors have written letters to residents of a local care home, sharing Christmas wishes and prayers. Their messages were heartfelt and I know that these will make a difference to many who cannot see relatives and have their usual visitors at this time. I have shared a national campaign 'Postcards of Kindness' for you to join in with which is similar and I encourage your children to do this in the approach to Christmas.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/discover/2019/october/postcards-of-kindness/>



Despite not being able to meet in person, our British Ambassadors, Liturgical Leaders, Junior Health and Safety Officers and Eco Warriors have all been able to contribute to the evaluation and development of aspects of school life. Most have met virtually, thought eh power of Microsoft Teams. The British Ambassadors have arranged to meet with the local MP next term – maybe they can get a few messages in to Boris!



Thank you to all who entered the school Christmas card competition. The winning school entry has been sent to all of our stakeholders. However, the local council ward could not chose a winning entry and have produced many of our pupils' cards to send out across the community. Well done to all involved for spreading the Christmas message into so many homes.

Other things to celebrate

Pupil attendance has been so impressive this term, despite the current situation. We have ended the term with an average attendance of 98.4% and we thank you all for your commitment to this. There have been fewer instances of illness in general and we believe that the frequent hand washing regimes contribute to this. We encourage you to continue to ensure that you are cleaning your children's hands as they move between locations this holiday time.

Many pupils have attended catch-up sessions to support their learning due to time missed last academic year. We thank you for your support with this to date. Letters have been sent to those who will be involved in these sessions in the new year. We were very pleased to hear from our School Inspector, that St Anthony's was one of the best-attended schools in the city. This is a testament to your commitment to your child's education and your faith in their teachers – we thank you for that. We have seen from data submitted to the local authority, that the attainment of our pupils was less negatively-impacted on average than those in many other schools.

"For the past couple of months the school and its teachers have been "turbo charged" with enthusiasm, focus and filling the children's heads with learning. Both my children seem to have progressed significantly with renewed focus." Email from a parent.



Part of St Francis and St Clare Catholic Multi Academy,
a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number 08578428)

We had fantastic parental engagement with the online Parents' Evening and we will be using the same system in February. Please complete the survey (sent today) to let us know your thoughts.

"I want to say how good parents evening was with the new system!!!! Fingers crossed we can use this for the future.... so chilled, not getting hot & bothered in the hall! 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌" Parent email

Good news is shared on our Twitter feed, so follow us on @StAntsWolves

COVID and Track and Trace

Finally, I must remind you that you must inform us via email should your child have a positive test for COVID during the school holiday, up until and including Christmas Eve. This would have implications for other families as pupils and staff in their bubble would need to self-isolate.

Please can I take the time to remind you of the need to distance when you are collecting/dropping off your child and the need to wear masks – there has been a visible reduction of this. We always have masks available to those who request them. COVID Liaison Officers are visiting schools across the city to ensure that parents are following distancing guidelines. For those of you who drive, remember to keep your children in your cars until they are due to enter school. Many thanks.

Mass this Christmas Time

I am sharing the Church Newsletter with you on a weekly basis. Here, it is explained how you acquire tickets for the Christmas Services. If you do not attend, I encourage you to watch this via facebook. There will also be services broadcast on the television and a number of Carol services shared. Please ensure, whatever you chose to do, that you make time to share the true meaning of Christmas in your homes.

I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas time with your families

Mrs Davis
(Head Teacher)



Part of St Francis and St Clare Catholic Multi Academy,
a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number 08578428)

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

Pupils return to school at the usual time **MONDAY 4th January 2021**



Part of St Francis and St Clare Catholic Multi Academy,
a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales
(company number 08578428)