

S^t JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

4th Dec' 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for the food donations that keep coming in, Mr Searson is arranging for it to be collected next week, last day for donations will be Thursday 10th December.

The season of Advent started last Sunday, each class has an advent wreath and Jesse tree, each day they light the candle and say the daily prayer. This is a special time of year as we wait and hope for the birth of Jesus. Normally we would send the 'Advent' bags home, so you can share with us your prayers and best wishes, hopefully next year we will be able to do this.

Winter weather has set in a little this week, please remember to send your child in a suitable outdoor coat and jumper, as school can be cold and we do go outside as much as possible.

Christmas cards and presents for teachers

Thank you to those parents who have already asked, in response, we are asking that gifts and Christmas cards are not send into school this year, instead, we are asking for donations towards the school fund. The donations can be made as part of the Christmas dance-athon on Thursday 17th December. You can make a donation, choose a Christmas song and send a message. A letter will be sent out on Monday.

Thursday 17th December – children can wear their own clothes for a donation of a £1.00 this is to be paid through parent pay.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas jumper day is next Friday 11th December, children can come to school in a Christmas jumper or t-shirt (normal school attire on the bottom) and anything else Christmassy.

Year 5 need to bring their Christmas Jumpers in on Monday for their music lesson film.



Known Diary dates:

Friday 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas presentations will be placed on Class Dojo

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Dance-athon

Friday 18th December: Last day school closes for Christmas

Monday 4th January – School re-opens



Ahead of the Christmas break we felt it was important to give you an update on Free School Meals and its application for the upcoming school holiday.

Free school meal vouchers over Christmas

A proposal will go forward to an emergency sitting of the RMBC cabinet on the 7th December 2020 in order to agree to a set of criteria to release funding for Free School Meals across the Christmas holiday and February half term.

The proposal will seek to release funding directly to schools to purchase vouchers to release to families/carers ahead of the school holidays. The vouchers will be worth £15 per child. Once school receives further information, I will let you know.

Formal Assessments Arrangements

The DFE submitted a press release yesterday regarding formal examinations for 2021. The following decisions have been made;

- Year 1 Phonics screening will take place as normal in June 2021
- KS1 (Year 2) tests in English Reading, Mathematics, Spelling and Grammar will be removed for that year – this will be teacher assessed
- KS1 (Year 2) Writing will be teacher assessed as normal
- Year 4 – Times Tables Screening will not be compulsory this year although schools can still sit them
- KS2 SATS (Year 6) The tests for English Reading and Maths will take place as normal in May
- The Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling test will be removed for this year only
- KS2 (Year 6) Writing will be teacher assessed as normal

The DFE have advised that notification of exam topics and aids will also be issued to school. The results in 2021 will not be included in the school's performance tables or published on the DFE website.

Schools will also be allowed a more flexible approach to administer the KS2 tests and Year 1 Phonics Screening by one week until 26th May and 25th June respectively.

If you have any concerns or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Ofsted Inspections

Following government guidelines Ofsted will not resume full inspections in schools until after Easter, these will be for schools who are 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement', therefore the earliest we can expect to see Ofsted again will be in September 2022. In the Meantime, Ofsted will continue to conduct 'supportive monitoring inspections' to schools and colleges.

The School Day – Covid

Governors will meet on Tuesday 8th December to review the Covid risk assessment and processes in place to combat the infection. This will include Friday afternoons and breakfast club. It is expected that our current policy will continue until February half term, when it will be reviewed again, however, I will confirm this in next week's newsletter.

Covid Update

Evidence suggests that the transmission rate is starting to reduce in line with predictions 4 weeks ago. The following data was shared at this week's Head meeting.

Since October Half-Term:

- 174 staff have tested positive for Covid
- 295 Pupils
- 5300 students have been out of school
- Affecting 99 settings ranging from nursery to colleges

The infection rate in Secondary and Primary years has remained static, however a surge of cases is now being seen in nursery settings.

Evidence continues to suggest that transmission is mainly in the community with incidents of children being sent to school with positive Covid tests.

Ministers are discussing targeting testing in Rotherham schools as a priority and this could start as early as January, they envisage that cases may rise initially due to staff and pupils testing positive who are non-systematic, however they are hoping that this will be short lived. I will keep you updated.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Briggs

St Joseph's Cup Winner

This week, Mrs Searson nominated Macky for the St Joseph's Cup. Macky has really impressed Mr Searson with his hard work and dedication to his learning. He is a superstar in class and a pleasure to teach.



Golden Book Learners

Our Golden Book learners this week are:

<p><u>Year 1</u> Jake for his hard work in Read, Write Inc. His reading and writing is really improving.</p>	<p><u>Year 2</u> Macey for setting an excellent example to others by solving an argument on the playground.</p>	<p><u>Year 3</u> Lola for always being ready to learn and giving 100%.</p>
<p><u>Year 4</u> Oliver F for always being ready to learn, always giving 100% and being a very helpful and polite member of Year 4.</p>	<p><u>Year 5</u> Harvey for settling into Year 5 at St. Joseph's.</p>	<p><u>Year 6</u> Stephany for being a superstar during her READ sessions and trying hard all the time.</p>