



Newsletter
18th December 2020

Merry Christmas

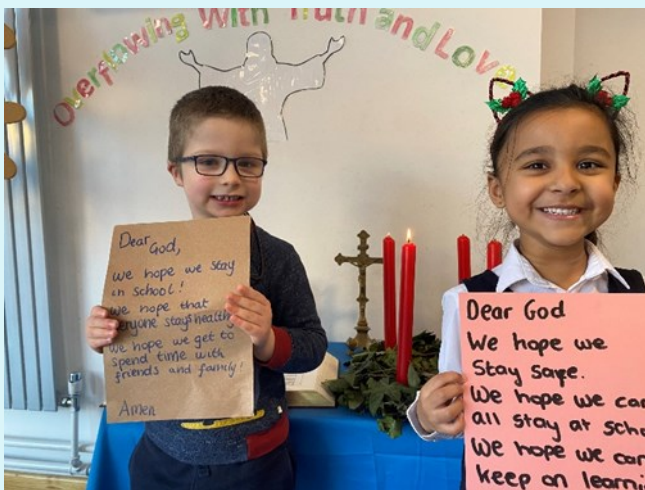
Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of this term, first and foremost I would like to thank you for your continued support. There is no doubt that this has, at times, been a challenging term for all of us. The impact of Coronavirus, both in school and in our everyday lives, continues to be significant so I do not for a moment doubt the challenges that many of you may have had to overcome in order to ensure that you child has been in school every day, and likewise had to adapt during periods of home learning during isolation.

Despite all of these challenges, what has been wonderful to see is the way that children have settled back into the routine of school life for their first term after the national lockdown last academic year. Their resilience and courage has really shone through, as they have adapted to new school routines and procedures as well as, for most children, having to manage periods of time at home in isolation. I know that I speak for all of the staff here at St. Luke's when I say how proud we are of all of them. Our school values have shone through time and time again.

Below are updates for you to be aware of, but I would firstly like to wish each and every one of our community a very Merry Christmas, however you may be celebrating or spending this holiday period. I hope that this holiday provides you with a most well-deserved break, and time to enjoy together as a family, however different it may feel to other years.

I would also like to share with you some photos of our RE Ambassadors from years 1, 2 and 4 sharing their classes prayers of hope near our advent wreath. They prayed for more chances to travel, for nations to work peacefully together and for all our families to stay healthy and safe.





Coronavirus

Below is a reminder of the information sent to you last week about the obligations of schools as part of contact tracing, and what you would need to do as parents in reporting a positive case.

Public Health England has agreed a six-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first six days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. For our school the arrangements are as follows:

Parents are asked to contact Rebecca Abrahams on her mobile phone (07932 995213) at any time until 5pm. On Christmas Eve, the final date for which schools need to be involved in contact tracing, Rebecca will be available until 3pm. All other parents and staff who need to be informed of a positive case which could impact them, will be informed by text message from the school.

- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than six days after the final day of teaching. Our school's last teaching day is on Friday 18th December, therefore there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24th December.

Canary Wharf Group carol service

As I have mentioned to you in previous newsletters, the Canary Wharf Group Carol service, which streamed on Tuesday evening, is available for you to view until the end of December. Please use the link below:

<https://canarywharf.com/whats-on/carols-candles-service-dec-2020/>

Dates

You should have received a text message earlier in the week to inform you that we will be having an additional INSET day at the start of next term. This is because we have been advised by the local authority to have an additional INSET day when the children return to school after the Christmas break. This is to allow for additional time, to process any updates in respect of staffing and children resulting from the Christmas break, and make sure that our Risk Assessments are also updated to allow for everyone's safe return. Therefore, both Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January will be INSET days. Children will return to school on Wednesday 6th January. This will be an additional INSET day for this academic year and will not affect the remaining INSET planned for the polling day in May.

Once again, I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas break, and all my best wishes for, a hopefully brighter, 2021.

Cristina King
Head of School