

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S  
C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

03.12.20

It was lovely to welcome back our children and staff in Y1 and Y4 after their periods of self-isolation this week. Well done to them all on some tremendous home learning. Both classes took part in Zoom calls with their teachers and many families engaged with the learning tasks, both on line and sent out in the packs. We thank you all. In these challenging times, we will continue to do all in our power to teach our children, whatever the circumstances. Please remember that if your child has to self-isolate at home for any period of time, work is set each week and uploaded to our website, so that they can continue their learning. Please see the front page of our website for more details. We sincerely hope no more classes will have to self-isolate at least this side of Christmas. Unfortunately, given the nature of the virus, there is no guarantee of this and we ask for your continued support as we try to minimise the risks in and around school. As we enter Tier 3 restrictions, we ask for your support in following all guidelines to the letter. Unfortunately if we have cases of covid within our school community from around mid- December, it will mean families isolating over the festive period. We cannot negate all risks however, by following all guidelines, we can minimise risk.

In line with government guidelines, please **keep your child at home if anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms, is booked in for a test or awaiting the results.**

- **a high temperature** – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it could be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

### Wellbeing Survey

Thank you to those families who took part in the online wellbeing survey. Your responses will help us to continue to support our families as best we can. We texted the link out to all families last Friday. If you would like to have the link re-sent please email [office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk](mailto:office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk) or phone school and we will arrange this.

### Message from our PTFA

There are some brown crates dotted around outside, within the school grounds. We kindly ask that if you have any unused presents, bottles, toiletries, chocolates, etc, that you bring them and place them in 1 of the crates. We can then quarantine these and use them to form some of our hampers. We are also contacting local businesses to ask for donations.

Raffle tickets have also been sent out today. We will be holding a competition for the class that sells the most raffle tickets. The winning class will receive £15 to go towards their Christmas party. We ask that all tickets are returned by Monday 14th December and we will draw the prizes on Wednesday 16th December.

Thank you again for your continued support through these uncertain times.



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## **Bright Stars**

If you are looking for childcare over the Christmas period, Bright Stars are open the commencing 21st December (closing 3.30pm on Christmas eve). If you are interested in booking, please contact Alison or Cheryl at Bright Stars or contact the school office. The deadline for Christmas bookings is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Christmas at Whinmoor St. Paul's 2020**

### **Supporting our families at this time**

For as long as we can, we will continue to provide and deliver food parcels within our community to those who need a bit of help right now. Please don't hesitate to let Mrs. Brew, Mrs. Burns or Mrs. Sheerins know in confidence and we will do our best to support you and your family.

### **Advent**

Our tree is up and decorated with sparkling lights. Each child in school has made their bauble and through these we are exploring the meaning of Christmas, the hopes and traditions of the season. We are particularly focusing on what we have to be thankful for, in what has been a unique year for us all. We have reminded our children that they are living through a time of historical significance. One day, they will share their stories of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic with a new generation. We are proud of each and every one of them. Many of the children have written reflections and prayers. The examples below bring hope and comfort to us all.

*'I pray that you will bring peace to the world no matter what bad deeds are done in this world you made for us.'*

*'Thank you for forgiving and bringing, sharing and caring and for peace.'*

*'I pray for peace and everyone to respect each other in the world.'*

*'This world is filled with spectacular nature and different kinds of animals. Please bring peace...'*

### **Christmas Parties**

Please see the message below about our Christmas parties. However, since sorting out our dates, we found out about a fabulous opportunity to watch an end of term pantomime -Rapunzel the lockdown pantomime – with our children (on line) on the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> December. Therefore, please note a change of party dates for some classes. Thank you.

During the last week of school, each class will be having a Christmas party. The children will have their usual lunch in school and the parties will take place in the afternoon.

On the day, children can wear their own clothes. Although we can't hire our usual disco, we have plans to really make it enjoyable for all our children.

I have written to Santa asking him to record a message to play at the parties, reminding children that although he can't come into school this year, he's busy getting everything ready and will be visiting on Christmas Eve as usual! The teachers have already told him how impressed they are with our children. I'm sure he will agree to send us a message.

Our party dates are below:

Nursery – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Reception – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Y1 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Y2 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December



Y3 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Y4 – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Y5 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Y6 – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

### **Staffing**

This week we have welcomed back Mrs. Sharkey, following the birth of her beautiful daughter and the completion of her maternity leave. She will take on the role of nursery teacher from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. She is very much looking forward to her new role and has enjoyed meeting many of the families this week, whilst she has worked alongside Mrs. Grattan to ensure a smooth transition. We send heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Grattan for all she has brought to our school. Her kindness, care and joy at supporting our youngest children and their families, as they begin their journey into school, has been exceptional. We will miss her very much and hold her in our prayers in all she does in the future.

We thank you for your continued support.

Miss McBride  
Head teacher

