

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

10.12.20

As we edge towards the last week of term, thank you to families for adapting to the new ways of working which have kept us safe throughout the autumn. It has been challenging at times, yet we have kept our school open and provided learning, both in school and at home, delivering a quality Recovery Curriculum, settling our children back into school and closing gaps in learning, identified through focussed assessment. And we have enjoyed a wonderful start to Christmas – our tree looks amazing, decked with our children's baubles, as we continue our Advent journey 'Rhythm of Life,' reflecting on the meaning of Christmas, the hopes and traditions of the season, in what has been a unique year for us all.

Information from Leeds City Council regarding Track and Trace up to 6 days after the closure of school at Christmas

*'You will be aware that the DfES has announced that schools can take Friday 18th December as a training day if they want to instead of one planned later in the school year. This is because schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable for **6 days** after the final day of teaching 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.'*

The decision by DfES to give schools the option of changing their training day to allow school to break up on 17th has been made with very little notice – it was certainly not something we envisaged happening. We feel that announcing an early closure at Christmas, at this late stage, will put additional pressure on many families and would mean cancelling another training day in the year. Therefore, school will remain open on 18th December. Please see details below about how we will contact you, should your child need to isolate over the holiday period.

Over the Christmas break, we hope all our families keep safe and well. Unfortunately, given the nature of the virus, we know that there is always a chance of positive cases within our community. We ask for your support as follows:

- If your child tests positive at the start of the holidays **and was in school in the two days prior to showing any symptoms (this means over the weekend, if your child was in school on the 18th)** please inform us by emailing office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk
- We will then contact all families of children who have been in close contact with the child (or staff member) who has tested positive and inform you that your child needs to isolate over the holiday period, following government guidelines. We have been instructed to contact families up until 24th December



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Headteacher: M McBride BEd (Hons) NPQH



- It is imperative we have an up to date phone number and email address for each family. Please let us know of any updates
- Our office email will be checked during the 6 days following the closure of school, each morning 9.30am – 12pm and 1.30pm – 3pm, except on Christmas Eve, when we will check emails up until 2pm.

We sincerely hope that, over this crucial period, none of our school community tests positive and we do not have to inform staff and families to isolate but if we do, we ask that you follow all guidelines to the letter. Public Health England have informed us that at this current time, instructions given from school to pupils and staff to self-isolate, if they are identified as close contacts with a positive case, are legally binding as the school are working on behalf of and on the advice of the DfE and themselves.

Reception Class 2021

If you have a child who will turn 4 years old by August 31st 2021 and would like to register them for a Reception place at school, please look on the website under Admissions.

Please pass this onto anyone you know who may be interested in registering their child to join our Reception class next year. As we are unable to ask you to come into school at this time, we have produced a 'virtual tour' which we hope you enjoy. Please follow the link below to access this.

<https://whinmoorstpauls.co.uk/admissions/>

Forms are available from our school office. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the application process.

Message from Miss Hamilton:

We continue to use our website and our Twitter account to help keep you informed of all the fabulous activities our wonderful children are doing in school. Now more than ever, keeping you up to date is a really important way of maintaining a sense of community within our school.

With this in mind, as well as taking pictures of the children and their work and uploading these onto our website, we would also like to take some videos of the children and upload these too. Unfortunately, our website does not support uploading videos as they are large files and the website simply crashes.

A solution would be to host the video on YouTube – the video would be viewed on the website but would not be searchable to anybody other than school and cannot be accessed on YouTube itself. We would put the video on the website, it would just be 'stored' on YouTube. We must stress that nobody else can access this video but ourselves and nobody would be able to comment on the video. It would not be discoverable to anyone else as it would be on a private YouTube account.

If you do not wish your child to take part in any videos, please let us know by filling in the form at the end of this newsletter and returning by the end of term.

Christmas 2020

Thank you again to families who have asked if presents for staff are allowed to be sent into school this year. We really do appreciate the sentiment and kindness behind this request. As a staff, we have discussed this and given the impact of the pandemic on our families and our community, we would request that rather than buy a present for staff, if you intended to, please spend the money on your own family or make a donation to one of the local food banks on behalf of St. Paul's.

Free meals for children in Asda Cafes throughout December.

Please follow the link below for more information:

<https://corporate.asda.com/newsroom/2020/11/30/kids-can-eat-free-in-asda-cafes-throughout-december>



Parties

Next week, each class will be enjoying their Christmas party. On the day, the children can wear their own clothes. Please do make sure the clothes are suitable to be worn all day and outside too. We also look forward to watching an end of term pantomime over the week.

Our party dates are below:

Nursery – Tuesday 15th December
Reception – Thursday 17th December
Y1 – Thursday 17th December
Y2 – Tuesday 15th December
Y3 – Tuesday 15th December
Y4 – Tuesday 15th December
Y5 – Thursday 17th December
Y6 – Thursday 17th December

Last day of term:

On 18th December, children may wear a Christmas jumper or a jumper of their choice to school for the day. If families wish to make a donation to The Children's Society, please do so via SchoolMoney. If you are unable to do this at this time, that is fine.

Christingle

We had hoped to send home to each family a bag containing the resources needed to make a Christingle, along with information and ideas for celebrating your own Christingle worship at home. Unfortunately, the resources have not arrived in school at this time. If they arrive before the end of term, we will, of course, send out to you.

Christmas Carols

Our class emails will be open on **Wednesday 16th December** and on that day we hope to send every family a special recording of their child's class singing some wonderful Christmas songs. This will be accompanied by a message from the class teacher and the last newsletter of the year. We will close the class email at the end of the day and ask that you continue to use the Office email, as always, should you wish to contact us.

Message from our PTFA

Tomorrow is the last day for donations. 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 one of the crates. They can then be quarantined and used to form the hampers. We are also contacting local businesses to ask for donations.

Thank you to everyone who has so far donated and returned raffle tickets. 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. Can we kindly remind you that all tickets are to be 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.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Miss McBride
Head teacher



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Permission to appear on videos uploaded onto the website via YouTube:

Name of Child: ----- Class: -----

I do not wish my child to take part in any videos to upload to the website.

Signed

Date

