

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S  
C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

16.12.20

As the autumn term draws to a close, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy year ahead. Each family has been sent a special recording of their child's class singing some wonderful Christmas songs. We hope this brings you joy. In line with our safeguarding policy, we ask that you please do not share any recording or photos sent by school with others or upload onto any form of social media. Thank you.

We will close the class email at the end of today and ask that you continue to use the Office email, as always, should you wish to contact us.

### **Spring term**

### **Weather**

As we move into the spring term, we will always endeavour to keep our school open. However, if we have a serious snowfall overnight and are not able to open, we will inform families as soon as possible by sending a text, sending a tweet and uploading information onto the school's website. We will also inform local radio stations.

Please remember that if children wear wellington or winter boots to school, they will need a change of shoes for the day. Either their black school shoes or pumps. If you can send a peg (labelled with your child's name) to keep the wellies together, we would be really grateful.

### **Values**

At school, all we do is underpinned by the Christian ethos of valuing the individual. We believe that every child is respected as a unique child of God, the future adults in society. We are privileged to work with families and carers, supporting and enabling our children to live life to the full. At the start of the spring term, we will be focusing on the Christian Value of Integrity, linked to the gospel of John, when Jesus revealed himself as 'the way, the truth and the life.' This links to our British Values of mutual respect and tolerance. After half term, we will focus on Hope and the promise of Easter, linking to the British Values of tolerance and justice.

### **School Lunches and Packed Lunches**

We all know the importance of having a healthy, balanced meal at lunchtime. Over the cold winter months ahead, if you would like your child to have a school dinner, please inform us via the Office email. Prices are £2.20 for Nursery, Years 3&4, £2.30 Years 5&6. If you are in receipt of income support, your child is eligible for free school meals in KS2. Please let us know if you want to take up this option. The school dinners are high quality, nutritious and prepared on the premises by Rose and her team. If you prefer your



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child to have a packed lunch, we ask for your support in packing a healthy lunch, which does not include chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. In school we have several children with severe allergies, so please ensure that you do not pack any food which contains nuts as we need to safeguard all our children and will continue to be a nut-free school. Great advice on healthy lunches can be found on the following website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Water is always available in school and we ask that you send your child to school with a labelled water bottle, which can be refilled during the day.

## **Uniform**

We ask that you support us in sending the children back to school on time and in full uniform at the start of the spring term. We are proud of our children and their uniform identifies them as belonging to Whinmoor St. Paul's community and supports us in continuing to raise expectations and standards. Our full uniform list can be found on our website or pop into our office for a paper copy. We particularly ask you to support us on the following:

- School shoes – Sensible black shoes, not trainers
- Jewellery - On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this rule is plain earring studs in pierced ears. On any days that a child is participating in PE, games, swimming and other physical activities it is advisable to leave earrings at home
- Nail varnish is not permitted nor are 'extreme' haircuts, artificially coloured hair, patterns in hair or large hair 'decorations' such as patterned bows, clips etc. Please keep to simple bobbles, head bands, in school colours.

**On PE days**, children can wear their PE kits, to avoid changing at this time. Please see our website for a full list of what can be worn. The PE kit is low cost and easily maintained and we ask your support in making sure the children's PE kit is treated as part of the school uniform expectations – please keep to the correct colours, no large labels, slogans etc. Thank you.

## **Golden Rules**

We continue to ask all our children to respect the six Golden Rules of our School and ask that you remind the children about these over the holidays:

- **We are gentle** (we don't hurt others)
- **We are kind and helpful** (we don't hurt anybody's feelings)
- **We listen** (we don't interrupt)
- **We are honest** (We don't cover up the truth)
- **We work hard** (We don't waste our own or others' time)
- **We look after our property** (We don't waste or damage things)

## **Safe internet use**

On our website, under Safeguarding, you will find advice about keeping your children safe online. You may also wish to look at the NSPCC site, which offers good advice to parents and carers too.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>



## Reminder: Track and Trace over the holiday period:

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

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 18<sup>th</sup>)** please inform us by emailing [office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> December
- 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.

### Message from our PTFA

Thank you to all our families who kindly donated raffle prizes and bought tickets. We have raised £412 through raffle ticket sales. This is a fantastic amount and we would like to thank all the families who have supported us and sold tickets. The PTFA have purchased our beautiful Christmas tree and will be using the money to purchase more outdoor equipment once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Well done to Year 3 who won our raffle competition.

All raffle winners will be contacted to arrange collection of prizes.

Once again, thank you for all of your support and wish you a merry Christmas!

### Last day of term:

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 so at this time, that is fine too.

School reopens on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We ask that you bring your child on time, using the correct gate entrance and exit, in line with our Risk Assessment and the children return in uniform, back into their school routine of fixed bedtimes and ready to learn.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and wish you a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Miss McBride  
Head teacher

