

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell

Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another term, I would like once again, to thank you for your continued support as we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. The relationship between families and school cannot be underestimated and this year has become even more critical as we have worked together to support our students during the continued Covid-19 pandemic. I particularly want to thank families who have worked with us to enable students to continue their learning during periods of self-isolation. Please find enclosed within this letter information that may be of support to you and your child across the holiday period.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you information about the activities and events taking place in school in the lead up to Christmas as well as sharing some key messages:

Advent Activities:

- To prepare students during the season of Advent all students are taking part in virtual weekly Advent liturgies led by our Chaplain Mr Morales.
- All tutor groups also have their own Covid secure Advent Calendar to countdown the days to Christmas!
- In addition students are being encouraged to support those in our local and national community by contributing tinned/packet food items to Hebburn Helps- each Bubble has its own donation station- and taking part in Save the Children's National Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December (you will have received a separate letter about this event and a reminder the voluntary £1 donation can be made on Parent Pay or brought as cash into school by students).

Christmas Activities:

Tutor groups are busy creating a Christmas themed design for their tutor room doors as part of a whole school competition and we will share these with you- and announce winners- on our social media platforms.

Christmas Lunches: will be served to students in Years 7,8 and 9 on Tuesday 15th December and Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 on Wednesday 16th December: we are fortunate to have a fantastic catering team providing a really special meal for students.

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.

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Christmas Rewards: every year Heads of Houses select students who have demonstrated positive behaviour, attitude and attendance and celebrate their achievements with a range of rewards including texts, letters and postcards home to share this celebration with families. We traditionally have a special rewards afternoon for students who have demonstrated exceptional attitude in our key values of faith, learning and respect and this year will continue that tradition in a Covid secure manner which will necessarily mean a slightly reduced number of students taking part to ensure students can socially distance and stay safe.

Christmas Spirituality Day: on the final day of term Friday 18th December all students will take part in our spirituality day where we dropdown lessons in order to fully focus on celebrating the Christmas season together as a community. The day is led by our Curriculum Leader for Religious Education Mr Young and involves lots of fun and engaging activities to deepen our students' understanding of the heart of the nativity story.

End of Term Messages:

- **Uniform:**

-A reminder that during the lead up to the festive season our high expectations regarding uniform remain in place and that students are **not permitted** to wear make-up or nail varnish or false/acrylic nails; no jewellery; extreme haircuts/styles are also not permitted (hair should be no shorter than a number 2). Students who do not meet uniform expectations may be isolated or sent home until the issue is resolved. See our school website for our full uniform policy: <http://www.stjosephs.uk.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Uniform-Policy-converted-1.pdf>

-As the weather turns increasingly inclement, please be advised that students who choose to wear boots or wellingtons to school must change into a pair of shoes for the duration of the school day.

- **Final Day early finish:** Please note that the school term ends on Friday 18th December 2020 and that students will be dismissed to make their own way home at 12.30pm. School buses will be available as usual at 12.30pm.
- **The new term begins:** on Monday 4th January 2021.

Finally, on behalf of all staff and Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P. Mitchell
Headteacher

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