



26th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, we are soon to begin the new Liturgical year together. This coming Sunday, Advent bids us welcome once more in anticipation of the celebration and feast of Christmas and as always there has been much to reflect upon and celebrate since the half term break back in October.

Firstly I would like to offer sincere and heartfelt thanks to all parents and carers for following the advice from the Government regarding self-isolation. Here at school we are all acutely aware that any decision for a family to self-isolate is a difficult one, and can impact significantly on work commitments, childcare arrangements and of course educational provision. I offer my thanks on behalf of the entire school community knowing that in deciding to self-isolate following a positive test or becoming symptomatic, you are adding an additional layer of mitigation to the processes here in school, and together we are doing all we can to keep each other and our families as safe as possible.

Here at school, November began with 'virtual' remembrance assemblies for all year groups led by Mr Whipp and students have also completed their own remembrance 'stars' during Sacred Space with their form groups. These have been displayed within our school Chapel for all loved ones that we have lost. Year 11 students have completed their mock examinations and engaged very positively with all necessary processes as the Sports Hall became their Covid secure examination room over a number of school days.

This week, Year 9 parents, carers and students took part in our first ever 'virtual' consultation evening. Similar to last year, families were able to book 5 minute appointments online and then, in a change to usual arrangements in the school hall, discussion and feedback was facilitated using an online platform. The feedback from everyone concerned has been immensely positive and we will be looking to implement this system across all year groups for the foreseeable future.

Traditionally during the Advent season, we have worked with many local community partners to offer support through fundraising and donations. As in previous years we will be supporting the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank and the SVP society as they continue to provide for those in need. The Foodbank has recently announced that it has fed nearly seven thousand people last year, including three thousand children. We can easily imagine that this year will have seen much



more demand. Because of Covid safe practices, we only have a short time to collect this year but I am sure that we can all rise to the challenge of helping those less fortunate. The Foodbank need donations of tinned and dried food, biscuits and cakes, long life milk and juices. Also, toiletries, nappies, and pet food. Food should have a 'use by' date of no earlier than January 2020. A full list will be on your child's Ruler account as a message from Mairie, and we are asking each child just to bring in one item if possible - your child's Form Tutor will have explained everything to the students.

The school's annual PTFA raffle will once again be taking place this year, with many wonderful prizes on offer including a fantastic 7 night Eurocamp Holiday, a Luxury hamper, afternoon tea vouchers and many more. Virtual tickets will be available via Parentpay with full details to follow next week – please check your email inbox.

As winter draws ever nearer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the only items to be worn under the school blazer should be a shirt, tie and school jumper. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn at any time. Appropriate coats can of course be worn, and full details of all uniform requirements are detailed within the school's Uniform Policy which is available on our website. Please also ensure that your contact details are up to date and that you have signed page 19 of your child's School Planner which gives permission for your child to leave site in the event of an emergency school closure.

As always we welcome your feedback on any aspect of school life here at St Nicholas and I would like to offer two possible avenues for your thoughts as we near the end of the Advent Term.

Firstly, many of you have been kind enough to offer words of thanks to different members of staff via email or through your child's Planner over the term. As you know, the staff here at St Nicholas are working exceptionally hard to support your children in these challenging times and if you feel you are able to offer any general words of encouragement, hope, solidarity or thanks at the end of an incredibly demanding term then please take a few seconds to click on the link below and leave a message if you can! We will then look to collate these as a Christmas message for our staff at the end of term.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw_TRPICEGUr-8xJpopjFnlvktNUMENWVENVOTQyQUZMRUk1RUZaN1FDQkZLMY4u

Secondly, we would welcome your views on our updated online learning provision for students having to self-isolate at home. We have worked hard to provide a strengthened position in response to Government requirements outlined in October and parental feedback from school closure. Next week, Mr Wycherley will be writing to all parents and carers inviting



you to complete a brief online survey as well as inviting you to attend a virtual Parent Focus Meeting on Monday 14th December. Please complete the survey and join us if you can.

In closing I would like to remind you that school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 17th December which is the last day of the Advent Term for students, and I will write to you with further details over the coming weeks.

As always, thank you for the continued support you offer to the St Nicholas community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

