



11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, we have collected all of the items that students have brought to school in support of our Advent Foodbank charity focus. Thank you for supporting this initiative so generously, and we have been humbled by the sheer volume of items that children have brought in to school this year. It has been our most successful appeal to date and reflects the core message at the heart of our Mission Statement that everyone matters, and very much puts our faith into action making clear our calling as a Catholic community to support the most vulnerable and needy at this time of year.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a formal thank you to the students at school who each and every day engage so positively with the new processes and systems that have been necessary to keep us all safe during the Advent Term. As we enter into 2021, and as infection rates continue to fall, we are hoping that we will be able to adjust our arrangements to allow more flexibility both within the curriculum and across our enrichment activities and after school provision, whilst at the same time maintaining the highest of safety standards throughout the school - we will look to update you in the New Year. I have attached details of how families can report any positive Covid cases over Christmas to the end of this letter.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all our students who have continued to live up to the high expectations of our 4Rs, and who live out our Catholic values through their attitudes as members of the St Nicholas community: Thank you for being punctual at the start of the school day and to your lessons, for your positive engagement in class with your studies, for attending in the correct school uniform and with the correct equipment ready to learn and for being role models to each other through your words and your actions. Collectively, all of these small behaviours create a firm foundation upon which deep learning can be built and from which future success is destined to follow.

Thank you to parents and carers for your understanding and support through this most challenging of Terms – for your words of encouragement, suggestion, understanding and appreciation. Thanks to those who were able to leave some positive words to share with our staff community and thanks for offering feedback on our remote learning provision - we look forward to meeting with some of you virtually on Monday 14th December for our Parent Focus meeting. There is still time for you to sign up and join us should you wish to do so, please just email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk.



As we draw ever nearer to the celebration of Christmas, we would do well as always, to reflect on the words given by Pope Francis from St Peter's Square on Christmas Day last December:

May Emmanuel bring light to all the suffering members of our human family.

May he soften our often stony and self-centred hearts, and make them channels of his love.

*May he bring his smile, through our poor faces, to all the children of the world:
to those who are abandoned and those who suffer violence.*

*Through our frail hands, may he clothe those who have nothing to wear, give bread to the
hungry and heal the sick.*

*Through our friendship, such as it is, may he draw close to the elderly and the lonely, to
migrants and the marginalized.*

*On this joyful Christmas Day, may he bring his tenderness to all and brighten the darkness of
this world.*

In conclusion I would like to remind you that the **Advent Term will end as planned on Thursday 17th December when school will close to students at 12.30pm** - all school bus services will be provided as usual. I do hope that you are able to join the Christmas celebrations within your own parish communities this year, virtually or in person.

The new Lent term will begin for students on **Tuesday 5th January 2021** when the usual exemplary standards of uniform are expected. Students will be reminded of uniform standards during next week and I would ask you to re-familiarise yourself with our Uniform Policy and other detailed information on our school website should you be making any purchases in preparation for January.

Until then may I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher



Reporting Positive Cases of Covid-19 over the Christmas Holiday

The Government and Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority have recommended that all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

- Where a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Therefore if your child develops symptoms any time after 12.30pm on Saturday 19th December, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- If a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school (this will be up to 12.30pm on Saturday 19th December), the school will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

To facilitate these arrangements, we have set up a dedicated page on our school website for you to inform us of any positive cases of Covid-19. Simply click on the blue 'Report a Covid Case' button at the top of the school home page.

IN OMNIBUS LABORA