



17th December, 2020

Dear Families,

Christmas Week

We have celebrated Christmas in style here at St. John Vianney school this week with Christmas parties all week in school! The children enjoyed their traditional Christmas Dinner after a morning of parties, quizzes and everything Christmassy and this was followed by a Christmas Pantomime that was organised by our PTFA. But the highlight of the week was certainly a digital visit from Santa and his elves and a present for all of our children. The look on their faces when they were given a personalised gift from Santa was simply magical! Thank you to all of our magical elves who have helped to make this possible this year.

St. Oswald's Hospice

St. Oswald's Hospice is a charity that is close to the hearts of many of our families in school. This Christmas, St. Oswald's are involved in a *Christmas Tree-Cycle*. For just £10, St. Oswald's will collect your Christmas tree and recycle it and all profits will go to St. Oswald's Hospice. To find out more and to book your slot, please visit www.stoswaldsuk.org/christmas-treecycle.

Father Peel - R.I.P

Last week, we heard that Father Peel, who was Parish Priest here at St. John Vianney from November 2001 - June 2007, sadly passed away at the end of November. David Mayhew, who was a longstanding Governor of our school and parishioner within St. John Vianney parish, has also sadly died. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this very sad time.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Free School Meal vouchers for the Christmas holidays have been issued by Mrs McDine. Please keep a look out for an email from Mrs McDine with regards to this. Many thanks.

TEAMS

In September, school purchased TEAMS as an online remote learning system from the DFE. Due to the high demand for this nationally, we have just been informed that we will be live in January. We are currently in the process of receiving training from the DFE in this new system of remote learning and we hope to be up-and-running in January. We will keep you updated.

First Holy Communion

Over the Christmas holidays, twenty-two children from Miss McMaster and Mrs Rutherford's classes will make their First Holy Communion at St. John Vianney church with Father Martin. On behalf of the whole school community, we send all of our prayers and good wishes to Harry, Maisie, Alanya, Eve, Lois, James, Brandon, Oliwia, Olivia, Ruby, Jack, Lewis, Emily, Sophia, Ellen, Keira, Owen, Charlie, Jack,

Thomas, Hallie-Jo and Poppy as they make this important sacrament - we know it will be a very special day for them all.

The Photographer has been booked for 19th January (for Mrs Rutherford's class) and 21st January (for Miss McMaster's class) to take photographs of Year 5 children in their First Holy Communion outfits both individually and as a class with Father Martin in St. John Vianney church. I will write out to you with further details early in the new year once they have been confirmed with the Photographer.

New Chair of Governors

Last week, our Governing Body appointed Mr Graham Smith as our new Chair of Governors. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank Mr Hudson Bell, our former Chair of Governors, for ten years of outstanding service to our school. We look forward to many successful years working with Mr Graham Smith.

Staff Training Day - Monday 4th January

This is just a reminder that Monday 4th January is a Staff Training Day. Therefore, the school will be closed to all pupils. School will re-open for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January, 2021.

We break up for the Christmas holidays tomorrow afternoon as normal.

On behalf of everyone at St. John Vianney Primary school, I wish you all a happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

With my very best wishes,

C.Meldrum

Acting Headteacher