



Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School

"Let faith be your shield"

Newsletter No 14 Friday 11th December 2020

School Closure for Christmas

The DfE wrote to all HTs at 2.15 pm Wednesday afternoon saying HT's must be on call for 6 days after term finishes to run Track and Trace for school families, i.e. until end of Christmas Eve. They kindly went on to say that in order to stop being required to be on call of 23rd Dec, rather than Christmas Eve, we should arrange an INSET day for Fri 18th Dec so no children are in school. I posted this on FOSSY FB to gauge opinion re whether to close or not, and there were 48 responses. The responses were really lovely, thank you. I also discussed the issue with staff and governors. The upshot is we are **staying open on Friday**. The main reasons are:

1. It is very short notice for parents to find childcare
2. It is very short notice to actually do any proper CPD, and given it is the last day of an exhausting term it would be a waste of an INSET day
3. It would mean losing an planned INSET day in June, which is needed for school development, and some families may well have already booked holidays around the published dates
4. Although it would remove 1 day's risk of covid transmission, there remains the rest of in school days between now and breaking up which are still opportunities for transmission- so I'm not convinced that all the disruption is worth it for just one day's early closure.

You will note that I sent out a letter last week to all parents urging caution. I would reiterate the importance of taking every precaution in the **14 days prior to the 25th** (i.e. from today). I do not mind having to be on call until Christmas Eve- but the very last thing I want to have to do is be the bearer of bad news, ringing families to say they have to self-isolate due to a positive case in school- meaning they are unable to meet loved ones over Christmas. We are still in Tier 3, (despite cases in Lancaster, fortunately, being lower than many other areas) so tight restrictions still apply. We do have clinically vulnerable children, staff and parents/family members in our community, and I am particularly mindful that we need to really try and minimise any risk to them. Thank you for your continuing support.

Up-coming Events

Week Beginning 14th December

Children can wear any **festive jumper/top** they wish **every day** for this week. **They still need to wear school trousers/skirts and shoes.**

Please note: they do not need to wear a different jumper for each day!!

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Lunch— If your child already has a school meal you do not have to order. Should your child not want a roast dinner, there is the option of a baked potato as usual.

Thursday 17th December: in the morning the children will be watching a performance of Cinderella, live from the Lancaster Grand theatre (we will watch in our bubbles on the classroom whiteboard).

Raffle Tickets

Please ensure all raffle tickets are returned on Monday otherwise you will not be entered into the draw! Many thanks.

School Communication with Parents

During these unusual times, it has sometimes been necessary to contact parents via our Scopay system. Parents do not have to sign up to this to receive a message or e-mail, however we have had some parents complaining that they have not received communications from school. Sometimes these messages can go into junk/trash and would therefore advise that you check these folders if new messages are indicated. In order to access whether everyone receives information via the Scopay link, we will be e-mailing everyone next week and following up with a text message asking whether you received the e-mail or not. We can then check the e-mail addresses we have on file are the correct ones and alter as necessary. Many thanks in advance for your help in this.

Dinner Money

Please can everyone who pays for a school dinner ensure that all arrears are paid in full before the end of term and that there is additional funds in place for the beginning of next term. **A polite reminder that school dinners should always be paid for in advance and NOT in arrears.**

MISSION STATEMENT

Learning, growing and caring as part of
God's family

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If any remain in me and I remain in them, they produce much fruit." (John 15:5)



Scotforth Superstars



Name	Nominated by	Nominated for
Alfie Ackerley Max Brown Oscar Charlton-Green Matthew Goody Jaden Gyamerah	Miss Kierzek	Excellent home-reading records
Max Brown Matthew Goody Jules Taylor Chimezirim Ogowo	Mr Conway & Miss Kierzek	Making a detailed Mayan clay tile
Louie Bloomfield-Nardone	Mrs Winterburn	Improving his mental arithmetic skills
Joseph Edmunds-Parrington	Mrs Cross	Working especially hard when designing a healthy balanced pizza
Chloe Knowles	Mrs Cross	Consistently going out of her way to be helpful and kind to everyone
Hannah Weston	Mrs Cross	Thinking particularly carefully when explaining her opinion about different pizza toppings and bases
Aimee Sutcliffe Theo Stephens	Miss Parlane	Working hard and sensibly as a partnership all week
Dominic Boyoni	Mrs Browne	Super work in Maths
Finley Lloyd	Mrs Browne	Fantastic can-do attitude

Uniform Shop

Please see the message below from the Uniform Shop:

Hello All

I sincerely hope you are all keeping safe during this terrible time we are all experiencing. We would all like to thank you for your continued support over the year and to remind you of our Christmas opening times

We will close on Friday 18th December 2020 and reopen on Monday 4th January 2021

If you are requiring any uniforms please either email or telephone the office as soon as possible; as most of you are aware we are still struggling in obtaining stock from suppliers

I wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, let us all hope 2021 is better than 2020