



# St Anne's Catholic Primary School

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*'Loving God in all we do'*

Friday 6th November

Dear parents and carers,

We are blessed at St Anne's to have wonderful parental support and engagement in school life. I would like to thank all the Year 1 parents who responded to the survey regarding their experience of isolation. Your responses will help shape future learning opportunities should any year group be required to self-isolate.

As we begin another National Lockdown, I wish to praise once again the exceptional behaviour of all our children. Every single child has been magnificent in responding to the changes to school life. All children understand why we have to follow our rules as we try our best to minimise the spread of Covid-19. Data informs us that the virus continues to spread between adult to adult. It is important that parents do not congregate on the school grounds at the end of the day whilst allowing their children to play on the playground equipment or in the woodland areas. Please adjust your collection of siblings to minimise waiting time on the school grounds for older siblings. We all need to work together by staying apart.

Understandably, there will be no parents' evening this term. Detailed reports will be sent home providing all the necessary information that would have been shared during parent's evening.

Every child deserves a childhood and every child deserves an extra-special Christmas this year. All our staff are determined to provide an extra-special Christmas for all our children. To ensure we are as Covid-19 safe as possible, we will need to operate in a different way to previous years. Sadly, it is clear that we will not be able to invite parents, carers or grandparents into school to share in our children's Christmas celebrations. I know this will be deeply upsetting for many.

Working differently, we hope to be able to use technology to capture all our Christmas celebrations therefore enabling parents, carers and grandparents to share our children's Christmas celebrations. The school website [www.st-annesrc.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.st-annesrc.lancs.sch.uk) will house our media presentations.

## Christmas Dinner

We have planned for our Christmas Dinner to be an extra special occasion this year. In the coming weeks, I will send an online form for parents to complete if you would like your child to receive a Christmas dinner. We need to know our exact numbers in advance to ensure we can plan and organise appropriate seating arrangements.

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Headteacher: Mr P. Bates  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs G. Cleary



### Brunch with Santa

Every year the PTFA have organised 'Breakfast with Santa' which is always a wonderful occasion. This year we will be organising 'Brunch with Santa'. Teachers will prepare appropriately distanced seating in the school halls to enable our children to celebrate in their bubbles as in previous years. This will take place during the school day.

### Christmas Santa Dash

We will organise for our children to complete the annual 'Santa Dash' during the final weeks of school. This will be organised by the teachers with each class bubble participating on their own.

### Christmas Parties

Class teachers will organise individual class parties using the school halls. This will be timetabled to ensure thorough cleaning between classes.

### EYFS/KS1 Nativity

Teachers are preparing a Covid-19 safe Nativity to enable all children to participate in preparing to celebrate Christmas. Each class will present different aspects of the Nativity story in their own unique and creative way. Using technology, we hope to be able to link each aspect together to produce one combined Nativity to share with our families.

### KS2 Christmas Reflection

Sadly, our traditional Year 5 Christmas Carol Concert will not be happening this year. However, each year group in Key Stage 2 will be reflecting on an aspect of Christmas and presenting this as a class. Using technology, we hope to be able to link each aspect together to produce one combined Christmas reflection to share with our families.

### Christmas Activities - EYFS/KS1

Mrs Preston has organised a number of activities that children and families can complete together at home. Further information and resources will be sent home soon.

### Christmas assembly

Traditionally, the whole school celebrates a wonderful Christmas assembly on the last day of term. This year, we plan to use technology to ensure we can celebrate together as one school whilst remaining in our class bubbles.

### Preparation and continue Risk Assessment

As you can clearly see, a huge amount of work and preparation is required to ensure we remain as Covid-19 safe as possible whilst balancing the importance of enabling our children to prepare and celebrate Christmas. I can assure all families that if, through our detailed preparations, I believe the risks are too great to continue, I will make the decision to stop our planned celebrations. We would then reflect and adjust plans accordingly.

Information will be sent home nearer the time with dates showing when the celebrations will be taking place. Children will be encouraged to wear Christmas Jumpers!

As we approach Christmas and continue to work together through this National Lockdown, I ask again that the whole school family continue to work as one to try our best to protect all our teachers, children and families. We do this by following our three simple rules:

- Ensuring good hand washing routines using soap and hot water.
- Adults and children to maintain a 2 metre distance wherever possible.
- Parents and children not to gather at the start or end of the day on the school grounds.

Everyone wants our school to remain open. Protecting our teachers is vital to achieving this. Please do your utmost to follow our three rules.

Best wishes,

Mr P Bates

Headteacher