

# ST CLARE'S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

Guided by Jesus Christ, our teacher, we journey together learning to dream, believe and achieve.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Well today is our last school day of 2020 and what a year it has been! I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the very warm welcome that you have extended to me this term, I feel very blessed to be leading the school community of St Clare's. The children have been amazing since they returned to school in September and have faced the new way of working with great maturity. Thank you all so much in making the transition easier for us.

The children have had a great Christmassy week. There have been Christmas hats, Christmas cards, angels, Christmas scenes, Christmas dinners, parties and pantomimes. Yesterday, Father Jeremiah, Father Darius and Father Benedict worked their magic for us so that we could share a Christmas Mass and be reminded of the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. Today, the children watched the Christmas showcase in which classes told the Christmas story with socially distanced singing! It is available to watch on the school website, so please share this wonderful experience with your families. It will certainly bring a smile to your face and maybe a tear to your eye. Special thanks go to Miss Meadows and Miss Dinsmore for piecing it altogether.

## **Assembly**

This week our Assembly focused on the third Advent candle on our wreath – the candle of joy and grace. We were reminded of Mary saying 'yes' to God and agreeing to be the mother of Christ. The story of Leo Tolstoy's 'Papa Panov's Special Day' was also retold to remind the children that Christ is in each and everyone of us. He is easy to see when our eyes and hearts are open to Him. Let's make it our mission to see Christ in each other this Christmas time and remember that whatever we do for each other; we do for Christ.

## **Covid 19**

As we finish for the Christmas break, I would like to remind you of how to contact us if your child tests positive for Covid over the Christmas period. (Hopefully, you will not need to use this!) We have set up a separate email address which you should use to inform us- [covidpositive@st-clares.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:covidpositive@st-clares.manchester.sch.uk). Members of the senior leadership team will be checking the email regularly over the holidays to ensure that we notify any other families who may be affected by a positive result.

## **Attendance**

Whole school attendance for this week is 97% with Year 6F having 100% attendance. Well done! The whole school attendance for the autumn term is 97.3%

## **Swimming**

The swimming programme for Year 4 will begin again during the first week of the new term on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. In order to avoid any confusion and maximise safety, we have decided that it will be easier and less confusing for the two classes to complete the swimming programme in blocks

rather than every other week. Year 4RW will go first and swim for one hour every Thursday for the whole of the spring term – up to the Easter break. After Easter, Year 4B will take over and begin their course of lessons. Girls will need a swimming costume and swimming hat; boys will need swimming trunks (not holiday shorts). The instructors will no longer be able to loan swimming hats to the girls who may have forgotten them. Swimming goggles are only permitted if a doctor provides a note. The swimming baths have a strict risk assessment in place.

### **School re-opening in January**

Please note that children return to school after the Christmas break on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at the normal staggered start times. You may have seen in the news that high schools will be teaching many year groups remotely for the first week back. This does not apply to primary schools – we will be open as normal. Please ensure that your child is punctual and ready for their 8.45am or 9.00am start. We do not want to miss any vital learning time.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and governors of St Clare's we wish you a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas. We thank you for your support this term and your good wishes. We hope that you get to spend some quality time with the special people in your lives. We are looking forward to welcoming you back to school in 2021.

Take care and God bless you all,

Mrs Howe