



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

#7

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we come to the start of our Christmas holiday, I would like to thank all of our families for their support during the Autumn Term. Our children have been fantastic and they have made great progress with their learning. I hope you enjoy watching their Christmas performances, albeit virtually. I wish every family a happy and peaceful holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone at the start of the new term (Tuesday 4th January 2022). Merry Christmas, Mr Ashburn.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS

Our pupils have had a very special time together, rehearsing and recording their Christmas performances. The children were so confident in presenting the story of Jesus' birth and looked so happy to share their fabulous acting and singing skills. All performance can be viewed on our school website. Passwords have been sent to parents and carers via Schoolcomms. Videos will be viewable until January 4th 2022.

SCHOOL UNIFORM & NEARLY NEW CLOTHES SHOP

You may have seen that School Uniforms have been in the news recently. From next year, the Department for Education (DfE) has requested that schools ensure uniform costs are reasonable, and parents get the best value for their money. At St Ursula's, parents have the option to purchase uniform with the school logo; however, we understand this can be costly so non-branded uniform is also part of our uniform policy.

The new guidance states that schools should also ensure that "arrangements are in place" to make second-hand uniforms available to parents. Our Nearly New Clothes Shop has been a huge success so far this year.

To make it easier for parents and carers we are now introducing a 'click and collect' option, each Thursday. If you require uniform from the nearly new shop, please email the school office on a Thursday morning with your requests. A member of staff will collect the clothing and you will then be notified of the cost. You will then be able to pay on collection by cash or via Schoolcomms.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As you will be aware, we recently had a concentration of cases at St Ursula's. Working with Public Health England we were asked to temporarily tighten our measures to prevent further spread. We are still seeing cases but the good news is the numbers are not as high. I will update everyone as soon as we are able to reduce our restriction. It is obviously upsetting that we have had to cancel many of our events such as the Christmas Carol concerts, but the health and safety of our pupils, staff and families must come first.

OUTDOOR GYM—COMING SOON!

Physical activity contributes to both good physical and mental development and during lockdown, too many children and young people were not reaching the recommended levels of physical activity. As pupils returned in September we looked at different ways we could encourage pupils to become more active.

In January 2022, an outdoor Gym is going to be installed on the school grounds, and will be used by our KS1 & KS2 pupils. We hope this new addition will bring a wide range of physical and emotional benefits, from developing muscle and bone strength, increasing concentration and educational performance and learning, to boosting mood and reducing the risk of many lifestyle related diseases.

SCHOOL REPORTS

All schools are required to provide parents with an annual report on general progress, particular achievements and attendance. These are usually sent in the Summer and are called End of Year Reports.

In addition to the end of year report and parents evenings, St Ursula's teachers also provide parents and carers with end of term reports. The contents and level of detail of these reports are different to the end of year report as their main purpose is to keep parents up to speed with their child's attainment, at different points of the year. Having already hosted our parents evening at the start of this half term, these reports are an update on the past 7 weeks.

Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Teresa's	98.21%
2	St Jude's	97.61%
3	St Catherine's	96.67%
4	St Matthew's	96.28%
5	St Philomena's	95.67%

WITH God
AT THE
heart
OF OUR
St Ursula's
family
WE WELCOME
ALL AS WE
learn
AND GROW
TOGETHER

PARKING

As of January 2022, we will no longer be able to provide parking spaces for parents in our staff car park.

Access to our car parks is now limited to staff and visitors only. This decision was made as a result of concerns brought to School Governing Body regarding pupil safety in car parking areas and the school's duty of care towards pupils and staff.