



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

With only one day to go before the end of term, I wanted to update you with some final pieces of information.

Firstly, some advance notice regarding an issue that has become a major problem for us this week, regarding pupils coming to school without a face covering. However, rather than detail our requirements here, I will email you on Wednesday 6 January 2021 to ask for your assistance with this.

I am delighted to advise that all year groups have now enjoyed a socially distanced Carol Concert during assemblies that took place this week. In these difficult times it has been wonderful to see our school community watching and listening to the Christmas message of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The video will be available on the school website today and I recommend that you take time out as a family to watch and sing along to bring you all some Christmas cheer!

Father John Gorman has kindly shared the Christmas Mass times for the Ashton parishes, please find them below:-

The following schedule of Masses will apply over the Christmas weekend in the Parishes below:-

	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	<u>Christmas Day</u>
▪ Our Lady's, Bryn		9.30am
▪ St. Oswald's	7.00pm	11.00am
▪ St. Wilfrid's	9.00pm	

There will be **no Midnight Mass** or **evening Mass** on **Christmas Day**. Due to limits on capacity in each Church, **ALL** Masses will be ticketed. There will be **NO admission** without a ticket. Tickets are available after Mass at the weekend and during the week, or by emailing ourladysbryn@rcaol.org.uk.

Each Mass has a different coloured ticket, and so is valid for that Mass only. You may obtain tickets for your household only. Please only request tickets which you know will be used, otherwise you will be denying someone else the opportunity to attend Mass. Each ticket is numbered, and you will be asked to give the name, address and telephone number of each ticket-holder, and the number in the household.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend Mass, eg due to illness or a change in circumstances, please return the ticket, even at the last possible moment, as this may allow someone else to be admitted.

Between Christmas and New Year, daily Mass will be at **10.00am** each day, apart from 12noon on New Year's Day. Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family (27th December 2020) are as follows:-

<u>Saturday Vigil Mass</u>	St Wilfrid's	6.00pm
<u>Sunday</u>	Our Lady's Bryn	9.30am
	St Oswald's	11.00am



On a matter of public health, with regard to the high levels of parents/pupils reporting sickness bugs and headaches during this last week of the term, we are concerned as these are symptoms that have often been initially presented by many of our Covid positive children. With this in mind, I would advise that testing facilities are available over the festive period at the following site:-

- Haydock Racecourse, Newton-le-Willows Merseyside WA12 0HQ

***** New *** reduction in self-isolation period for contacts**

A reduced self-isolation period of 10 days for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus came into effect on Monday 14 December 2020. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. If they live with others and are the first in the household to have symptoms of coronavirus, then they must stay at home for 10 days AND all other household members who remain well must also stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. For further clarification on the new procedures, please see the attached documents.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

The Winter Grant Scheme is new funding available from December 2020 until 31 March 2021 to support families with children, other vulnerable households, and individuals. The funding is ring fenced to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other essential items. To find out whether you are eligible, please visit Wigan Council's website <https://wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Benefit-Grants/Welfare-Reform/Winter-grant-scheme.aspx>

As we finish school tomorrow, as previously advised pupils will be released **after they have had their lunchtime** from school at **1.00pm** (Y7, Y11) and **1.05pm** (Y8, Y9, Y10). Please ensure that your child makes their journey straight home, as the school bus services are all running at this earlier time.

School will re-open for pupils on **Thursday 7 January 2021**, (Wednesday 6 January is an INSET day for staff).

Finally, on behalf of all staff, pupils and governors of the school may I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours faithfully



M J Dumican
HEADTEACHER