

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Dear Parents/Carers

Well we have finally made it to Christmas after a very challenging yet rewarding term, just one day to go! The children at school have been fabulous in such difficult times and they are a credit to us all.

Every half term I pray and hope for some good news, however there is not a change in circumstances and as a result we will be continuing with our procedures in January. Playtimes and lunches will be staggered, there will be no masses or assemblies and we will have to continue with cold packed lunches. While I sympathise with the difficulties around staggered start and finish times it is the only way we can safely manage so many children and parents around the site. I really appreciate your invaluable support and cooperation, my hands are tied.

Over Christmas we will remain on call and we are here if we can help in any way. We have food parcels to give away and can make referrals to Stretford Food Bank. Please get in touch if you need us. In addition we have to 'Track and Trace' so if your child becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19 please let us know. The phone will be diverted and answer machine messages and emails will be checked regularly.

I do hope you enjoyed the Christmas shows on the video shared last week and thank you for your much needed donations. The money was used to cover the cost of production and Christmas activities in school. We have tried to maintain some type of normal for the children and Father Christmas visited last week (socially distanced of course) much to the delight of all the children. In addition we have also been able to donate over £480 to Francis House, our nominated charity this year, so thank you so much for your donations.

Dinner money next term will be £67.20 or £12 per week if you prefer.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Holy and Happy Christmas. I do hope even in these most challenging of circumstances you can enjoy this family time.

Thank you as ever for your continued support and cooperation in all we do, I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

God Bless

Mark Mountcastle