

Parent update 13.11.2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all safe and well. We've had a busy week, including an impromptu fire drill and swimming starting for Y4. Thank you for your cooperation with our covid measures. We are doing really well so far compared to other schools with regards to keeping bubbles open etc, so please continue to support us by social distancing at drop off and pick up (ie coming at the correct time). and following government advice not to visit homes or mix socially.

PE days have changed for two classes; Y6 will now be on Thursday and Y4 will be swimming on Friday.

Fundraising for Charity - As we approach the season of Christmas, we are going to support the Lalley Centre's foodbank by taking part in their reverse Advent appeal. For the next 4 weeks, beginning this **Monday 16th November**, we are asking **each child** to donate one item of non-perishable food each week. We will place boxes at the front and back entrances to school each morning for the children to put their donated food items in (for quarantining). We will then deliver the items to the Lalley Centre in the final week of term before the Christmas break. We have set ourselves a target of 1000 items in the next four weeks.

'Bag2school' If you are having a clearout, please put your unwanted clothes to one side. We are in the process of arranging a "Bag2school" collection. We will provide the (quarantined) bags for you to take home and tell you the collection day (when you may drop your bags of unwanted clothes outside school). We are hoping to generate money for class libraries.

Christmas - Christmas is going to be very different for all of us this year, we will be doing our best to adapt the Christmas traditions and perhaps try a few different ideas to celebrate Christ's birth.

School Play – This year we will be making a school play via video with each class playing a different part of the story. We will share the video with parents via a private link once it is complete. If you have not yet completed our updated permissions form, please could you click on this link to do so. If we don't have your permission to use your child's photo / video then we won't be able to include them in the filmed part of the production.

Pantomime – We have organised a "One Dame Panto Show" for each bubble from Y1-6 to take place during the last week of term. We would like ask parents for a

voluntary contribution of £2 per child towards this as school funds have been hit hard by the affects of the pandemic. "Oh yes we will!" I hear you cry!

We will of course give you dates nearer the time for **Christmas jumper day** and our sponsored **Santa / Reindeer dash**. Children may ask friends and family to sponsor them running in Christmas fancy dress / Santa hats. – date to be confirmed.

I am not sure yet what we will do for **Christmas lunch** but I will let you know soon.

Christmas Cards – If the children wish to write Christmas cards for their friends. We will put boxes at the front and back door of the school for Christmas cards (once we have finished the Lalley Centre Food bank appeal). Christmas cards need to be brought to school by Friday 11th December. These will then be quarantined – sorted – and then quarantined again ready for children to take home on the last day of the school term. School closes on **Friday 18th December at 1.30pm**

Nativity trail – This is just an idea at the moment.....If your front window is visible from the pavement, we would like a number families to volunteer to have a picture in their window through the Christmas holidays. (We will also be asking members of the parish too). Each picture will have a letter on it. The addresses (not names) will be shared. Families can go out for a walk in the Christmas break and write down the letters they see. The letters will form a well known Christmas word or phrase. Families who bring the correct phrase after the holidays will win a prize. Please email us with the subject header "Nativity Trail" to let us know if you would like to take part or if you are willing to put a letter in your window.

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

The government has made this statutory for primary schools this year. We will be incorporating it into our curriculum during the summer term. Before we do this we need to consult with you. Please read our draft policy which is available as a document below and email us at contact@st-johnbosco.manchester.sch.uk with any comments. We would also like to hold a parent forum regarding this in the Spring term. Again, please email us if you would like to be involved.

Thank you for your support, keeping our school open throughout this time is proof of how well our community can work together to keep us all safe and well.

With love and prayers,

Mrs Johnson