



Christmas Newsletter - Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Parents,

As we come to the close of this term I would like to thank you once again for all your support over the past few months.

As we reflect on the year 2020 there are so many mixed emotions and memories to recall. This year, more than any other, our call to 'serve' our community in 'faith, Hope and Love' has never been more meaningful. I pay tribute to the courage and kindness of all the staff from our admin staff, teaching and learning staff and our site staff and cleaners, who have all maintained a positive outlook to use our gifts to serve and make our school a haven of safety, hope and love. Despite all the additional Covid-19 control measures staff have been mindful of the need to motivate your children to learn and make up progress for the lost time during lockdown.

Pope Francis, in his recent book, *Let Us Dream*, states: *'Our greatest power is not in the respect that others have for us, but the service we can offer others.'*

I am very proud of our school and of the children and I know that this will continue to be the case in 2021. Pupil wellbeing and their learning will continue to be top of our agenda next term along with the safety of the community. So many of our families have benefited from the foodbank and from the Government voucher and computer schemes and we hope to be able to loan computers to the most needy families again next term when required.

COVID-19 cases over the holiday

Public Health England are directing schools to continue the contact tracing process for any positive cases of COVID-19 where pupils or staff may have been infectious before the end of term. This means the school will be 'on call' up to and including 24th December.

As part of our service to our community we will do what is necessary to keep our community safe. If your child receives a positive test result for COVID-19 before 24th December, please email us at our dedicated email address: covid@ctkcps.com

This email address will be checked daily at 10am and 11am from Saturday 19th December until Thursday 24th December. You will be contacted by a member of the leadership team

and we will go through the contact tracing process. We will then email the families of all pupil or staff who we have identified as close proximity contacts advising them that their child will need to self-isolate for up to 10 days. We are acutely aware how disappointing and upsetting it will be for any family or individual to be asked to self-isolate during the festive period, but the greater need to protect others comes first.

We will also monitor the COVID email inbox from 2nd January prior to return to school so that we are aware of any families or staff who have become symptomatic and tested positive for Covid-19 during the second week of the break, therefore needing to self-isolate into early January.

During the holiday it continues to be important that we all follow the guidelines to keep our wider community safe. Your child should return to school as planned on Monday 4th January unless they or anyone in your household is unwell. They will need to stay home if:

- Anyone in the household develops symptoms of COVID-19; additionally, anyone with symptoms should be tested.
- Anyone in the household is tested for COVID-19; as soon as someone in the household books a test, all members must self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance (<https://tinyurl.com/sdoyyrw>)

From Monday 14th December, self-isolation has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days for contacts of confirmed cases. Please see the below link for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-chief-medical-officers-statement-on-the-self-isolation-period-11-december-2020>

For the first week back in January pupils will remain in **class bubbles** whilst we reassess the national and local picture. We hope to return to year group bubbles from 11th January 2021.

Hygiene Routines

Please remind your children over the break to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene. Sneezing or coughing into their elbow should become a habit and will help us on our return to school to keep everyone bug free. They should continue to wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds, cover faces with a face covering if old enough and maintain 1M-2M distance between other persons when in public spaces.

DFE announcements regarding Primary tests

Here is a link to the full statement from the Department for Education:

“For primary assessments, key stage 1 tests in English reading and mathematics, and the English grammar, punctuation and spelling tests at key stage 1 and 2 will be removed for one year, in recognition of the challenges posed by the pandemic ... teacher assessment in

English reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, and all other assessments at key stage 2, will remain” More detailed information will be communicated to the parents of the children affected by these announcements in due course.

Uniform

We will be tightening up our routines regarding uniform from January. All children should adhere fully to the policy. School shoes must be worn with full uniform – trainers may only be worn with PE uniform. Plain navy track suit bottoms are to be worn on PE days – not patterned or logo leggings, etc. Parents must inform the school if their child is sent into school in incorrect uniform and the reasons why. We will help families with donations of uniform where we can.

Long hair should always be tied back whilst in school – Hair – no shaved hair styles please. A full uniform list can be found on our website.

Parking

Please be mindful that cars must never park on the yellow zigzags – the yellow zigzags are a measure to protect our children. Disabled badge holders may park on double yellow lines.

The church have requested that the church carpark is NOT used by parents of pupils at Christ the King School – we should respect this request please. We have liaised with the church to set up a permit system where those most in need for health reasons may use the carpark. Being late or avoiding walking a distance is not a suitable reason.

Christmas Nativities

Well done to all the pupils who took part in the retelling of the Christmas story this month. They have worked especially hard to share the story in song and mime. The following links are private and can not be seen publically.

The EYFS and KS1 video link is <https://youtu.be/mGva2xNFTXY>

The KS2 link is : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWXSi4d2FbE>



Christmas Home Learning

We encourage parents to carry on with some home learning (Reading and Online subscriptions) and well-being activities during the Christmas break to help the children's transition back into school in January. Some pupils find adjusting to home / school quite tricky. One resource recommended to us by parents is: <https://offschool.org.uk/parent-zone/resources/?cid=17>

Community Support

Links to the BCP support for food and other items for families that need it can be accessed here;

<https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/News/News-Features/COVID-19/Help-advice-and-support/Winter-Support/Support-this-winter.aspx> - includes all the information on the winter funding grant support and links to the food pages too.

Additional specific Christmas food support provided through the community and voluntary sector is available [here](#). Access to Food map – www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/accesstofood

Vote of Thanks

Thank you to all parents who voted for our school on Facebook to receive a voucher for the school to spend on equipment to help the children. We were thrilled this week when the Santa team from Castlepoint arrived to present us with a £200 voucher!



Keeping Safe Online Over the Holidays

Please be vigilant over the holidays to ensure that your children keep safe online. With so many older children now having phones parents are advised to check their chats and messages frequently to prevent misuse of language and intercept harmful and upsetting chain mail messages. Pupils are reminded in school that their conduct online must be polite and courteous, their Contacts must be known and their contact details kept confidential and the content that they post or watch must be age appropriate.



Year 2 Remote Learning Champion

Congratulations to Lorcan in Year 2 for winning the raffle prize – well done to all pupils who were awarded a raffle ticket for good engagement with remote learning during self-isolation. A special thank you to parents as working from home and balancing the demands and needs of a child home learning is challenging and can be very stressful too.

Reading Raffle

Well done to all pupils who have read daily this term and were awarded a raffle ticket for our half termly prize draw. Well done to the winners this term: Lorenzo, Jenna and Greety.

Doodle Maths

Congratulations to Leianna in Y6 who has now reached a streak of over 1000! Wow! Year 1 have achieved the highest marks on Doodle maths overall this term – well done!

PTFA Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all parents who supported the Christmas Raffle and Crazy Hair Day. £756 profit was made which will benefit the pupils and their learning. Thank you.

Spare Clothes

Please donate any spare clothes for KS1 children – we especially need spare navy blue track suit bottom, grey school trousers or blue skirt/ pinafore, pants and socks.

Christmas Gifts

Thank you from all the staff for gifts this week – they feel overwhelmed with the generosity and kindness shown.

Virtual Choir

Thank you to Mrs Fisher and her Virtual Choir for helping to spread a little bit of joy this Christmas!

Christmas wishes to you all from the staff and pupils at Christ the King School, Bournemouth.

Please follow the link below:

<https://youtu.be/sD9bFD-5Udg>



[CTK Virtual Christmas Choir](https://youtu.be/sD9bFD-5Udg)

It's been a tough year for everyone and we have missed our usual Christmas performances but are proud to have managed to put this virtual choir performance t...

youtu.be

The Nativities will be shared next week.

EYFS Open Day

Our Early Years virtual presentations and videos are posted on the website on our admissions page. Please do check this page regularly for updates. If you require a school place for your child in September 2021 the deadline for applications is January 2021. If you require any further information or advice, please contact the school and we will help you.

Pre-School Admissions

We currently have places available in our Pre-School for pupils age 3 years+ Please do look at our virtual presentation and video on our website for more information.

GIFT Pupil Chaplaincy

Children from Years 4 and 5 have been given the opportunity to apply for our 8 available posts of GIFT Pupil Chaplain Team Members. GIFT stands for, Growing In Faith Together. This is a really exciting opportunity for the children to play a very important part in the Catholic Life and development of our school. Children will have the opportunity to plan and lead Masses and whole school worship, along with taking a lead on charitable works, to name but a few! Children will write their applications over the 2 week Christmas holiday. The applications will be due in when we return to school and interviews will be held with

Mrs Lord, RE Leader and Mrs Tickel during the following week. The successful applicants will attend a virtual training session and they will be commissioned by the Bishop in a ceremony in February. Good luck to all of the applicants and we will write with further news in January.

Mrs Lord RE Leader

PSHE Life To The Full News

Thank you to all Parents that completed and returned the questionnaire. Following the consultation, we will be teaching the full programme. Teachers will communicate with parents in good time before the unit is taught, to allow parents to view the content on the Life to the Full Website.

Mrs Lord RE Leader and Mrs Atkinson PSHE Leader

School Council NEWS

Well done to the newly elected School Council Representatives!

They took part in the first ever VIRTUAL School Council Meeting!

Our School Council members are:

Ana and Luke in Year 1

Henry and Henry in Year 2

Eva and Alayna in Year 3

Agata and Jackson in Year 4

Lola and Toby in Year 5

Mia and Olivia in Year 6

We discussed various ways to improve playtimes and we have decided to introduce Playtime Buddies after Christmas.

Watch this Space:-)

Mr Smith School Council Leader

Let Us Pray

An Advent Prayer

*God of light, shine brightly,
Show us how
To bring hope to others.*

*God of mercy, help us
To comfort people and
To share in their joy.*

*God of hope,
Help us this Advent,
To share your light with others.*

*Where there is little faith, may we shine faith.
Where there is little hope, may we shine hope.
Where there is little love, may we shine love.*

Amen

A Christmas Prayer to read together.

*Lord Jesus Christ, when,
on a winter's night I look up through the clear air at the stars,
I can be very close to You
and to Your native Bethlehem.
It was at night that You first came to this earth.
It was under the same stars that now gleam in this night sky
that Mary first held You in her arms.
It was by the faint light of these stars
still shining tonight that the shepherds found their way to the stable,
and discovered You,
as the angels had said they would,
lying in a manger.
Dear Christ,
it is especially at Christmas time
that I see and understand how close You are
to those who live on the land.
We have so many reminders of You!
The stars and moon at night and the sun by day,
the same stars under which You were born;
the same moon that shone that night on Bethlehem;
the same sun that brightened Your first days on earth.
The stable, and the farm animals
that shared their quarters and their warmth with You, their creator.
The sheep and the shepherds that came to adore You,
rough men, but good, truthful, honest, and sincere.
O Jesus, Son of the everlasting God,
You are so wonderfully made one of us at Christmas time!
You are our God,
but You are our Brother, too.
You are our King,
but You come as a helpless little baby,
longing for our love.
Help us today and always to see You
in all those with whom we come in contact.
Let us never forget Your own instruction,
that whatever we do for the least of those around us,
we do for You.
Help us always to serve You in the generous,
selfless spirit of this season,
and we shall then be real Christians,
more and more like You, our Christ.*

Amen.

We give thanks for:

- The hard work of pupils and staff this term.
- The passion and generosity of our PTFA who help raise valuable funds for our school.
- The support of our local community and local churches.

We pray for:

- All families that they enjoy a happy and healthy Christmas.
- All families to keep safe over the holiday and return to school in January.
- Fr Chacko and all members of our Christ the King School and Parish family.

Congratulations to Miss Oppo and Mrs Shutler who are both expecting babies in the spring of 2021.

And finally, have a peaceful and Holy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back to school in January.

In faith, hope and love,

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

faith
hope
love

