



ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

*"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.
The Lord never lets us down." Pope Francis*

MESSAGE FROM MRS LAKNER:

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach Advent and the Christmas period I would once again like to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work through these challenging times together.

I feel very proud of the children, staff, parents and whole community for the way in which we have worked together to ensure that our children are safe, happy and learning in school.

Unfortunately, at the moment we are not able to welcome parents and families into school but please be assured that school continues to be a vibrant and happy place where the children are caring, sharing and learning together.

Advent and Christmas celebrations will be a bit different this year in school, but we are still determined to make this a spiritual and enjoyable time for the children and the whole community. Whilst some of our normal events cannot take place and we will not be together to share the special Advent Masses in school there will still be lots of activities planned and dates for your diary for the children on the run up to Christmas Holidays!

There will be another newsletter towards the end of term, and I have included below news on activities in school since we returned from the half term holiday. As always if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

Mrs L. Lakner

With best wishes and prayers,
Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)
head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk / 0161 338 4095

HARVEST: Thank you for your donations of tins and dried food for our Harvest Collection. These will be taken to the Foodbank in Stalybridge where I am sure they will be much appreciated.

PARENTS' EVENING: Thank you for your patience and understanding as we trialled our first virtual parents' evening. We have realised that 5-minute appointments were very ambitious on our part and this time period is something that we will definitely extend if we still are required to do virtual meetings in the spring.

REMEMBRANCE: The children have taken part in Remembrance Services and in Collective Worship about November the month of the Holy Souls. Thank you for the donations which will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK: Last week the children took part in various activities around anti-bullying. The theme this year is 'United against bullying.'

May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together

CHRISTMAS 2020



ADVENT REFLECTIONS: We will still be holding our special advent reflection sessions during Advent at which the children can take time to reflect and pray together. These will take place within class bubbles.

EYFS NATIVITY & KS1 PRODUCTION: Unfortunately, we are not able to welcome our community into school this year and host the traditional performances for the EYFS Nativity or the Year 1 and 2 Christmas production. We are however planning alternative ways in which we can still share these special events with families. We are hoping to be able to film the productions and share them on a safe platform. More information will follow.



CHRISTMAS CARDS: In support of the continued measures we have in place in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic we ask that Christmas Cards are not shared within school this year. This is to avoid the passing round of cards in class. We appreciate that the children may be disappointed about this but as always, their safety is our priority. We are going to ask the children if they want to send a card virtually to design and make one and then post it on Seesaw or Tapestry to be shared with their class.

NON-UNIFORM DAYS: Both Christmas Dinner Day and Party Day will be Non-Uniform Days. We would normally ask for a donation in support of the Christmas activities. However, this year, whilst appreciating that this is a difficult time for families, if parents wanted to make a donation it will be shared between Willow Wood Hospice and School Fund. The School Fund helps to deliver enrichment activities and resources within school. We will put buckets at the entrance points on both days for any donations you wish to make. Details for non-uniform days are as follows.

Thursday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day!
Thursday 17th December - Party Day!

CHRISTMAS DINNER & PARTY DINNER: The Kitchen will be serving two festive meals with a Traditional Christmas Dinner on **Thursday 10th December** and a Party Dinner on **Thursday 17th December**. All children in school can have a meal on these days even if they normally have sandwiches. Each meal costs £2.32 for children in Nursery or Years 3 to 6, meals for children in Reception, 1 and 2 are free under the UIFSM Initiative.

If your child does usually have sandwiches but would like a school meal on either or both of these days, please complete and return the slip below (Nursery and Years 3 to 6 only) to school before Friday 27th November 2020. Please be aware that orders will not be accepted after this date due to kitchen deadlines.

CHRISTMAS DINNER & PARTY DINNER ORDER FORM FOR CHILDREN NOT ON SCHOOL DINNERS
PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP BY FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

My child _____ in Year _____ would like:

Christmas Dinner Thursday 10th December Party Dinner on Thursday 17th December

I have paid / will make the payment of £2.32 / £4.64 online at www.tameside.gov.uk/schoolmeals
Please do not send money into school, all meals must be paid online.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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CHRISTMAS TREAT: Once again we have been given a donation from the Mabel Wilson fund, Mabel lived all her life in Carrbrook and wanted to gift a legacy to local schools. Usually this goes towards the cost of the pantomime but this year as this is not possible each child in school will be given a treat to bring home. We are most grateful to Mabel's family and friends for this lovely gift.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE AFTERNOON: On Friday 11th December all the children will enjoy a Christmas Movie in class with their friends. Each class will watch a different age appropriate film and no trip to the Movies would be complete without some treats!



CHRISTMAS CRAFT: Our own Christmas elves have been busy planning some lovely craft activities for the children to enjoy. Every child will be participating on a make and create session bringing something special home to share with you.

PARTY DAY! Christmas Party Day is on Thursday 17th December. The children will have a day of Christmas fun in their Class Bubbles. This is an own clothes day too so get your party clothes on!



PARISH MASSES: Please visit the Church Website for up to date information and booking details to attend Mass at St Peter's & St Raphael's Church in Stalybridge at www.stpetersandstraphaels.org. Latest information can be found in the News section, within the Parish Newsletter. The Parish office can be contacted on 0161 338 2575.

NOVEMBER 2020		
Friday 27 th	Last Day - Festive Dinner Orders	9.15am
WC 30.11.20	Advent Reflection Session 1	In Class Bubble
DECEMBER 2020		
WC 07.12.20	Advent Reflection Session 2	In Class Bubble
Thursday 10 th	Non-Uniform Day - Christmas Jumpers! Christmas Dinner	All Day Lunch
Friday 11 th	Christmas Movie Afternoon	PM
WC 14.12.20	Advent Reflection Session 3	In Class Bubble
Thursday 17 th	Non-Uniform Day - Party Day! Party Dinner	All Day Lunch
Friday 18 th	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	Normal Time

School closes on Friday 18th December 2020.

School opens on Monday 4th January 2021.

Drop off and Collection Windows and times will remain in place on the last day and when we return in January. Thank you for your continued support this year.

CHRISTMAS MEALS - ORDERING SLIP
DEADLINE: FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

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