



The Saint Raphael's News



Spring 1 January 2021/ Matthew 2:1-12

"We saw the star and have come to do Him homage."

HAPPY NEW YEAR: I hope that everybody had a good Christmas and stayed well. Obviously, this has not been the start to the new year that any of us wanted. It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week even though it was only for one day before the announcement of the lockdown came. Thank you for your support and understanding this week following the announcement on Monday night. We received a high number of applications from key worker who are unable to keep their children at home. These have been sorted in line with Government guidelines and with consideration to the safety of the children and staff.

The children have done an amazing job this week adapting to either being in school or learning from home. I would like to thank all the staff who have worked incredibly hard to get the homelearning systems in place quickly so that the progress and attainment of all our pupils can remain our priority during this period.

HOMELEARNING: The homelearning provision that we have set up using Tapestry and Seesaw is working well this week and the children are working hard. As you are aware the teachers are posting work and can then respond to the children's work with comments and/or next steps. The staff are by their computers during the school day to help any child who posts a question. By offering support in this way, staff are available to support children throughout the day and are accessible during school hours. This gives greater flexibility for you at home and allows the children to seek support when needed. Seesaw allows us to post videos or type responses promptly to help support and extend learning throughout the day. The videos posted can be watched at any time to reinforce learning. We are also working hard to ensure that the work at home matches the work in school to ensure a smooth transition when we are able to return fully in the future. As always we welcome your feedback on how the homelearning is working.

CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S: The half term overviews have been sent home outlining the areas of learning for your child this half term. This will also be available on the website.

SATS: This week the government announced that SATS will not take place this academic year. We will continue to work hard to prepare the children so that they are ready to move on to the next stage of their education and maintain the high standards we set throughout the school. Further updates on assessments will follow as soon as guidance is provided.

WINTER WEATHER: The start of this term is often when we see some of the worst winter weather. As a school we always endeavor to remain open and make everyone effort to ensure our site and premises are safe for the children. Please look at the school website for updates. If it is not possible for the school to remain open we will send a notice of closure to you by text message as well as posting on the school website. We will send information a early as possible following a risk assessment of the school site.

ONLINE SAFETY: Keeping children safe using technology and the internet is always of paramount importance. Many children have received devices or phones over the Christmas Break and school has a great webpage with information and links on this subject to support parents and regularly includes this topic in the curriculum. This is especially important as inevitable during lockdown children may be using devices more regularly.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: Unfortunately, as you are aware currently we have had to postpone our Sacramental Programme. We look forward to a time when we can celebrate these sacraments together.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for your children in school. As you are aware all of our communication services are reliant on school having the correct details for you. Therefore, if there are any changes to your mobile numbers and/or email addresses please inform us as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct contact information on our systems.

PARENTS' EVENING: Our proposed date for Parents' evening is the week beginning 15th March. We will send details to parents for this later. We have reviewed our November Parents' Evenings and are looking to make any necessary

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

adjustments. All the appointments will again be made online and we will send a text message to your primary contact when the appointment schedule is open for bookings.

CATHOLIC LIFE: Unfortunately, at the moment we are not able to celebrate Masses in school. However, the children are still having weekly Gospel assemblies in their bubbles. Also we are still going to celebrate the achievements for all our children.

Parish Masses - Please see the parish website for the most up to date information on services at St Peter's and Raphael's Church. If you wish to contact Father Philip his phone number is 0161 338 2575.

| JANUARY 2021 | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Monday 4th | School opens for Spring Term 1 | Usual bubble times |
| FEBRUARY 2021 | | |
| Tuesday 9th | Safer Internet Day | All Day |
| Friday 12th | School Closes for Half Term | Usual bubble times |
| Monday 22nd | INSET DAY - School Closed for all children | All Day |
| Tuesday 23rd | School opens for Spring Term 2 | Usual bubble times |
| MARCH 2021 | | |
| Monday 15th | Parents' Evening Week | Times TBC |
| Wednesday 24th | Full Governing Board Meeting (Virtual) | 5.00pm |
| Monday 29th | Retreat Week | All week |
| APRIL 2021 | | |
| Thursday 1st | School Closes | Usual bubble times |
| Wednesday 14th | School opens | Usual bubble times |

Please be assured of our continued prayers for our whole community during this time. If you have any concerns or questions please contact school. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we 'care, share and learn together.' We look forward to the time when we can have all our children back together in school.

Next Newsletter: February 2021

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