

It's Friday once again! We've had a fantastic week full of learning, laughter and Christmas spirit. I have heard from lots of children that the Christmas decorations have been put up at home and there is a lovely buzz and exciting atmosphere around school. We all need a bit of Christmas cheer to look forward to after what has been such a long year!

On Wednesday, we heard the definite news of the vaccine being rolled out as soon as next week which is amazing and gives us so much hope that 2021 will see the return of hugs and good times! Advent is a season of HOPE and in the Gospel reading this Sunday in Church we listen to the message of hope that John the Baptist brought when he prepares the way for Jesus who will be the hope of the world. The season of Advent is a wonderful time to make a positive and fresh start and be filled with hope. Pope Francis reminds us, 'Hope is a strength, a grace and a gift from God!'. Hope is a wonderful gift to receive this Christmas!



The children have been amazing today and run their legs off in our Santa Dash! The children all received a certificate for their efforts! Thank you so much for the sponsor money that came in today. We will continue to collect sponsor money next week. Have a look at all the wonderful photos on TWITTER.

Next Wednesday, we are looking forward to seeing all the children dressed as Nativity characters. We hope this will bring a bit of the usual Christmas magic to school. There will be prizes for the best dressed characters in each class.

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – Children to come to school dressed as their Nativity character.

**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – CHRISTMAS DINNER

**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – Christmas Jumper Day in exchange for £1 Donation

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – Own Clothes - £1 donation or Food Bank Donation of Cereal or Biscuits.

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – School Closes for the Christmas – we are expecting a **special visitor** this day!

**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** – STAFF INSET DAY

**TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** – SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO PUPILS

**WIRRAL is now designated a TIER 2 AREA. Please remember:**

- You must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- You must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – the 'rule of 6' applies.
- Do not send your child to school if a member of your household displays any symptoms.
- Arrange a test for any household member who displays symptoms.
- Maintain social distancing when on the school site or outside the school gates.
- Wear a face covering when on the school site when collecting your child(ren).



**Kind Hearted Fundraising - Thank You!** I'm always so humbled by the kindness of our school community, especially at this time of the year. Thank you so much for supporting the many projects we have going on at the moment. For 'Children in Need' we raised over £200, we have sent huge amounts of donation to Wirral Food Bank and the Homeless and we still have 'Christmas Jumper Day' to come. This is brilliant and very much appreciated!



This week in school, there have been lots of Advent preparations. Our prayer

spaces have been prepared, class Advent wreaths created, KS2 have had collective worship via video, Advent Calendars opened and the crib and decorations are up. Christmas is nearly here!

## Our new school value for December is LOVE... I think

this is possibly my favourite value of all



our school values!

We believe as



Christians that the greatest love story ever told, is the story of God's love for each of us. **Love** is a gift: a gift from God. At Christmastime, we believe that God's greatest gift of **love** was Jesus, the Saviour of the world. God loves us so unconditionally that he sent Jesus to show this love. So there is no better VALUE for December because at the heart of this Advent season we have love; love that is freely given and love that accepts unconditionally.

Mr Hinds entered a number of our children into a 'Virtual Gymnastics' competition. The children who competed did an outstanding job with two of them qualifying for the Merseyside Finals. It is lovely to hear that although our children can't go out and enter sports competitions like they used to, even these can now be done 'virtually'!

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** - Places of Worship are allowed to open again this weekend and Fr. Chris has asked me to let you know about Christmas Mass times. Normally, Church anticipate big numbers over the Christmas season and Fr. Chris is always delighted to see everyone. This year though, to ensure that Church remains Covid secure they have to limit the number of people in Church. If you wish to attend, you will need to book in advance via the Parish Office on 652 5767 or via the email [admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk](mailto:admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk). Some masses are already getting near capacity so don't delay!

Mass times are as follows –

Christmas Eve

5pm at St Joseph's

10pm at St Michael's

Christmas Day

9:30am at St Joseph's

11am at St Michael's.



## Attendance



F1 – 95.5%

F2 – 94.2%

Year 1 – 98.1%

Year 2 – 96.6%

Year 3 – 98.6%

Year 4 – 97.5%

Year 5 – 95.2%

Year 6 – 91.7%

Thank you again for your patience and understanding at this time. Mrs Ralph