

We have had the loveliest of weeks in school and it really is now “beginning to feel a lot like Christmas”!

Wednesday was a fantastic day seeing all the children dressed up and looking wonderful. Hearing the music and giggles and seeing all the smiles made the day so worthwhile and despite everyone being in ‘bubbles’, it has linked the whole school community together in a very special way. Lots of gorgeous photographs were taken of the children and I know teachers have been very busy tweeting these and sending copies via SEESAW. On Thursday, everyone enjoyed Christmas Dinner – thank you to Debbie and Michelle in the kitchen for working so hard to prepare this! Today has been Christmas Jumper Day and again we are so grateful for the contributions which will be sent to ‘Save the Children’.

Christmas  
magic is  
silent.  
You don't  
hear it— you  
feel it, you  
know it, you  
believe it.

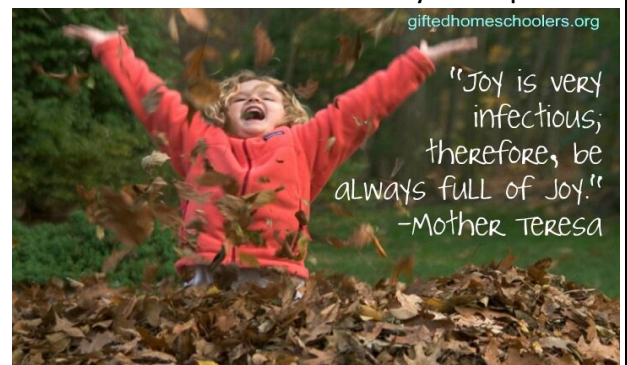
Kevin Alan Milne, The Paper Bag Christmas



This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as ‘Gaudete Sunday’ and we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. The word ‘Gaudete’ in Latin means ‘Rejoice!’ We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near – we rejoice that Christmas is coming. **Advent is a lot like the time of waiting**, and when the time actually

comes **the joy we feel is a lot like Christmas**. In this Sunday’s Gospel in Church, John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. Next

week in school we will think about what we can do to bring JOY to others in this last week of term. We all need a bit of JOY at the moment and I am hoping this week that’s what we can give the children.



### IMPORTANT DATES

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DEC.** – Own clothes in exchange for £1 donation or Food Bank Donation of Cereal Biscuits.

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – PARTY DAY – we are expecting a **special visitor** this day!

**FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** – School **CLOSES** for the Christmas Holidays

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

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

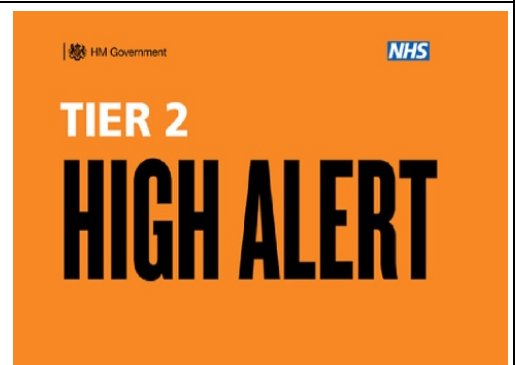
**WIRRAL is now designated a TIER 2 AREA.**

**Wirral has started symptom free testing.**

***Anyone who lives or works in Wirral and does not have Covid-19 symptoms is eligible for symptom-free testing at the following sites:***

- **Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**
- **Birkenhead Market**
- **Greasby Library**
- **Eastham Library**

***The testing will be for those without symptoms. Please, do your bit and get tested for Wirral. For more information, FAQs and opening times visit: [www.wirral.gov.uk/test](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/test)***







## A NATIVITY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Wednesday was the loveliest of days. The children looked amazing. Thank you!



## Our school value for December is LOVE.....

If you haven't seen the John Lewis Advert, take a look by following this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUMpzwLNiMk>

It's called 'Give a Little Love' and I think it sums up our school value perfectly and everything we want to achieve in this month of December. Often at this time of year, adults can get quite stressed as they are

rushing around trying to get things done and we also have the added stress and anxiety of Covid-19 this year. Please take a little time to pause with your children this week and think about how we can all 'share a little love', maybe this is even in the words we speak and the way we talk to others. I say it over and over again but the staff in our school are incredible and every day I watch them 'spread love and kindness' with the children they work with.

**Thank you again from the bottom of my heart for all the incredible fundraising donations that have been sent in over the last few weeks. In addition to all the money we are sending to Charity, we are able to buy a new sound system for the school hall and the money will also allow us to continue to develop the forest area. We never take for granted how willing and supportive our parents are and we have never appreciated this more than ever at what we know is an incredibly challenging time for many of you.**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES** - This year, 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 at 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** - Well done to F2 & Y1 for having the best attendance this week.

F1 – 90.2%

F2 – 97.1%

Year 1 – 97.1%

Year 2 – 96.0%

Year 3 – 96.8%

Year 4 – 96.3%

Year 5 – 92.3%

Year 6 – 87.4%

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