

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 8: 2.12.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have just come out of the November lockdown, hard going all round! We're now in Tier 2 and we hope that the next few months will see us moving into better times. It is wonderful that we have a vaccine known as The Oxford Vaccine with some of our parents part of that exceptional team. We're being advised to dig deep and keep our resolve for the festive season. This has, however, been a truly demanding year for everyone, living through a life changing time with a whole new vocabulary of furlough, remote, bubbles, social distancing, lockdown!

We missed our Winter Fair last Saturday but, as ever, at Mary and John, the determination is there and the Winter Fair website is a triumph, easy to navigate and full of lovely things. I am told that we've already raised an impressive amount so please keep on buying, all in a good cause! The children's contributions through calendar art, Christmas cards, and jolly jars are a real joy. Thanks go to everyone in the PTA for their excellent efforts and also to Camille Hallo for decorating our gates with festive greenery to advertise the virtual winter fair.

We have put up our school Christmas tree in the shared area next to the large playground. It was kindly donated to us free of charge by the Sea Scouts, at the end of Meadow Lane, where there is a great selection of trees, all sizes, so please think about buying your tree there.

We have had some telephone parent consultations. I hope you've found these useful. Our teachers were pleased to talk to you about how your children are getting along. I am optimistic that the next parent consultations will be face to face. I have been meeting with teachers this week, along with Chris Chamier Williams, our Deputy Head and Beth Gibson, our Special Needs Coordinator, to talk about the progress in individual classes, and to think about how best to support the children. These meetings are called Pupil Progress Meetings and we hold these three times a year, termly.

Our year 5 have been off for the last 10 days, returning to school this Friday 4 December. We're looking forward to welcoming them back. We've been in regular touch with the teachers and are delighted that all the children have engaged with home learning. This is our second bubble lockdown. We are pleased with our remote learning platform, Seesaw. It is not as good as being in the classroom with their teacher but it is a reasonable substitute for a short time.

We are having our Christmas lunch in the main hall as a treat. Due to restrictions around year group bubbles we need to do this over two days, Tuesday 15 December for years 1, 2 and 3 and Wednesday 16 December for years 4, 5 and 6. A separate letter has gone out about this. It would be lovely to have lots of children signing up for Christmas lunch as the cooks provide a delicious meal.

We finish at the end of this term on **FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER at the earlier time of 12.30**. There will be a school lunch on that day.

Please stay well, along with your families, hibernate if you can (!) as there will be an end to all this, in time.

Best wishes, Liz Burton