



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 3TF
Tel: (01707 324408)

Email: admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. D. Abrahams

18th December, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Holidays:

On behalf of the staff and governors at Our Lady Catholic Primary School, I would like to wish all of the children and parents a very happy, holy and, most importantly, a healthy Christmas. As we approach the end of what has been an unprecedented year, the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. In this season of Advent, it is inevitable that our minds may start to drift away from the challenges that this year has brought us, to the festive period itself. The prospect of Christmas will hopefully cheer us a little and lift our spirits. I do hope that as parents you will encourage your child to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass during the Christmas holidays. It is our duty to proclaim and celebrate the birth of Christ and to ensure that the real message of Christmas is at the forefront of our hearts.

Reasons to be Thankful:

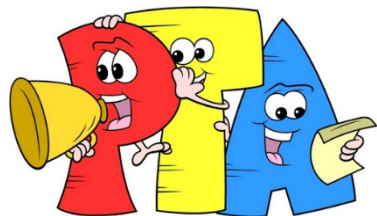


It was such a pleasure to see our team of Mini Vinnies in Years 5 and 6 leading the way in our support for the homeless community at the YMCA last week. The children, who were instrumental in arranging for the various donations that were generously provided by our families, packed the bags for the homeless visitors to the local YMCA centre. This project was such a wonderful opportunity for the children in our school to live out their faith by providing them with 'real life' experiences of

following the teachings of Christ. I cannot express my gratitude to the people who run the YMCA for allowing our children to shine.

Being prepared to think of others is, of course, a particular strength of Our Lady Catholic Primary School. Raising money for charity is something that our children

and staff do readily and willingly. This sense of community is something very special about our school; and it was incredibly pleasing to see the fantastic **£427** that was raised for Children In Need this month. The community also drew together to raise a further £178 for CAFOD, and **£189** for Save the Children throughout the autumn term. In addition to this, we were also extremely grateful for the generous donations during our Harvest Festival, in which we collected a wonderful range of food items for the local food bank.



We are also very grateful to our wonderful PTA for their fantastic efforts in raising some much-needed funds for the school. Despite the restrictions that are in place, our PTA have continued to work hard by organising a Christmas Fun Day, school lottery and personalised Christmas cards. They have raised an astonishing **£1019.50** for the school. I would like to thank the PTA for their continued commitment, hard work and careful organisation in arranging these wonderful events. Your support is very much appreciated and the children really enjoyed the Christmas Fun Day last week.



Our next lottery draw takes place on Saturday 19th December and the more people that take part, the more chance you have of winning (and, of course, the more money we raise for the school!) Each week, there is a guaranteed winner so please do sign up to support our school. Family and friends are also welcome to take part so encourage as many people as you can to join in the fun. So far, 36 people have signed up to our school lottery, which will provide the school with an income of £1900 for the year! That is how easy it is! On Saturday, you also have the chance to win a Nintendo Switch Mega Bundle – which consists of a Nintendo Switch Console Neon, Mario Kart Home Circuit Double Pack and Lego Marvel Heroes 2 and Minecraft and a Nintendo Switch case, accessory pack and Mario and Luigi hats. This sounds like the perfect thing for the children at Christmas!



I would like to thank all of our wonderful children for their hard work, determination, flexibility and perseverance throughout this term and for being such great ambassadors for our school. It has been a privilege to see our children adapting to the challenges that they have been faced with, whilst learning new concepts from an increasingly challenging curriculum and making progress throughout the term. Each and every child has contributed to the school's improvement journey and they should feel very proud of their fine achievements.

A huge gratitude of thanks also goes out to our parents and carers. We are so lucky to have such a supportive group of parents and carers at our school, who have adapted to the new routines and procedures and have played a key role in keeping our school community safe. Thank you!

Finally, I am sure that you would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children of the school during the term. Our dedicated team have put so much into making this school what it is – and for providing the very best education for each and every child in the school community in a safe and secure environment. The dedication and commitment of

every member of the staff team throughout this year has been nothing short of inspirational! We are all so incredibly grateful to you!

What to do if your child tests positive during the Christmas holidays:

I am sure you are looking forward to the Christmas break and spending time with the family. Having that time to relax and recharge batteries will be beneficial to all of us. During the holidays, our school still has a responsibility to track COVID cases and inform parents if there is a need to isolate. Therefore, I just wanted to clarify what you should do if your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the break. There is a quick turnaround for booking a test and getting the result so please do not hesitate to book one if you or your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms. Test centres will be open throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th December:

If your child develops any COVID symptoms, please take them for a test. Your whole household will need to isolate until the test results are back. Please email the school office on admin@ourladys.herts.sch.uk to let us know that you are taking your child for a test. You will also need to email the office when your test results come back - whether they are positive or negative.

Monday 21st December – Thursday 24th December:

If you are waiting for Covid test results for your child, please let the school office know when the results return

27th December – 3rd January:

If your child develops symptoms and has a positive test during this time, please let the school office know – they will not be able to return to school on the 5th January.

Travelling Abroad:

If you are travelling abroad during the Christmas period and return to the UK after Christmas day, unless it is a country in a travel corridor, you must self-isolate for 10 full days after you arrive back. Your child must not return to school until the 10-day isolation is complete. If you are using the Test to Release Scheme, please send a copy of your test result to the school office before your child returns to school.

Day of return to the UK	27/12	28/12	29/12	30/12	31/12	1/1	2/1	3/1	4/1
Return to school	6 th Jan	7 th Jan	8 th Jan	9 th Jan	10 th Jan	11 th Jan	12 th Jan	13 th Jan	14 th Jan

Christmas Reflection:

To finish, we should reflect on the true magnitude of Christ's birth. Let us remind ourselves that this is the one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest and dearest to us and those less fortunate than ourselves. We hope that in all the preparations you are able to take time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and are able to join each other in fellowship over the Christmas period to rejoice and give praise on the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

As always, we truly appreciate your continued support and co-operation in these unprecedented times. Despite the challenges that may lay ahead of us all, I, and all the staff at Our Lady's, are very much looking forward to the year ahead, working in partnership with you and your children as we continue to build on the successes of the past year. As ever (and, in fact, more than ever) we thank you for your continued support! Together, we can work as one, to ensure that the children, staff and parents of our school are kept as safe and secure as possible in the coming months. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, peaceful and healthy Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Stay safe, God bless and 'Merry Christmas!'

Richard Curry

