



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Samantha Griffiths
Assistant Headteacher: Helen Lambie
School Business Manager: Suzanne Evans

Thursday 17th December 2020

Newsletter

School Return Date: Wednesday 6th January 2020

Important: Contact Tracing

Please continue to keep school up to date about any children who test positive for Covid-19 during the school holidays up to and including 23rd December via email at: a3357@telford.gov.uk . Please do not leave a voicemail as this will not be picked-up until we return. It is important to do so so that Senior Leaders can consult Public Health Telford to check if any of our children will need to isolate. Thank you



Thank you, parents, for all the presents, cards, email messages and gifts that you have generously given to my teaching staff. I know that for some families, a gift is a stretch, so it makes your kindness even more appreciated. I would like to thank families for all the support and kindness you have shown my staff too – throughout the coronavirus pandemic we have received

many complimentary messages from parents regarding our provision for home learning, our support of key worker and vulnerable children at school and our caring and helpful approach. As a staff and a school family, we are incredibly pleased to have been able to support our families through this challenging and unprecedented time and we really have appreciated the partnership we have with you. Your kind words really mean a great deal to us.

Thank you to our Governors, administrators, cleaning team, cooks and teaching staff who have worked under enormous pressures and restrictions over the last nine months and they have done it with energy and positivity even when things have been difficult for them personally. With hundreds of positive cases in Telford schools over the last term, it has been an unsettling and unnerving time as we work in such proximity to the children in our care. Everyone has done a grand job in keeping themselves safe beyond the school day to minimise the risk to their bubbles, often going long periods of time without seeing

loved ones and restricting their social lives also. I am very proud of their continuous, unwavering hard work and all they have achieved. I have been forced to ask a lot of everyone professionally and personally and they have risen to the occasion without question.

Thank you to all the members of the St Vincent de Paul charitable group for helping some of our families here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Financial distress can have devastating effects on families. In these tough economic times, many have lost their jobs, homes, cars, savings, and more. Some parents are struggling to meet basic needs and so we have been able to support some of our families that have found themselves, through no fault of their own, facing difficulty. We are so grateful to the members of the group for being motivated by their faith and so committed to offering meaningful and timely support to those most in need. The £1000 worth of vouchers gifted to us was used well across school. We were also gifted some hampers by The Seventh Day Adventist Church that we gave to families. Members of the public and our own teachers have also donated clothes, food vouchers, coats and footwear to children in our care. We have assigned and gifted several laptops to families too, one of which was donated to us by Madeley Parish Council who have also purchased and packed a Christmas present for each child in school. I know that there are parents who are actively supporting other families too. We have been really touched by what we have witnessed.

Thank you to our children who, simply put, having been outstanding. Their cheeriness, smiles, energy, and joy have kept us all going. They have approached all the new routines sensibly and respectfully and we could not be prouder of them. They have worked hard and have really got stuck into their learning; they are all so keen to share what they have been doing with me every day. I have been particularly impressed with the way they have coped with having to isolate. They simply accept that they have a responsibility in keeping each other safe and on their return to school, they have bounced back and have happily and quickly settled back in school life. Visiting classes and getting to spend time with your children has energised us all throughout this challenging year. They really are remarkable and a credit to you and the very best part of my job in school.

We have been saddened to learn over the course of the year, that several of our families have lost someone close to them, you are very much in our thoughts and prayers. A priest once said to me that, 'Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal'. I hope that Christmastime is gentle on you at what might be a very difficult time.

Wishing you and your family health, happiness, peace, and prosperity and let's hope for a year of joy ahead.

Have a good rest everyone and enjoy time together.

Merry Christmas

Mrs Griffiths