

St. Herbert's R C Primary School

Autumn Term

12th November 2020



Dear Children, Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for all your kind messages of support and encouragement as we continue on our journey through challenging times! It is greatly appreciated, and we are trying to do our best for our school community with the aim of happy children!

Charities

Thank you for your VERY GENEROUS donations to our Harvest appeal (Foodbank Friday) last term. All the food has now been distributed to various local families and foodbanks.

We will be holding another Foodbank Friday on 27th November, hopefully providing food for our community in preparation for Christmas – thank you in advance for your donations.

Many families have asked how they can help during this difficult time; alongside our charity 'events' we are asking if anybody has any old laptops they would consider donating to school. We appealed for devices during the lockdown in March/April, and we received some laptops which Mr Milligan was able to convert to Chromebooks and distribute to a few of our families. We are striving to ensure that all our families have at least one device (not a phone) in the household – this is not just to enable the children to complete their online activities, but will also help families with completing online forms, banking, ability to get vouchers etc. Thank you in advance of any help you can offer.

Parents' Evening

Thank you for your patience and support yesterday with our Parent's Evening via zoom! We experienced a couple of technical issues, but in the main it appeared to go well.

Flu Vaccination

A quick reminder that we are expecting the health team to be coming into school next Tuesday 17th November to administer the flu vaccination (nasal spray for children).

Winter

As part of our school risk assessments, we have to ensure good ventilation within the school and classrooms. Hence windows are open, and when we can doors too (within reason). Therefore, please can you ensure that children always have their jumpers/cardigans, and also consider layers underneath their uniform to keep them warm ie: vests, tights etc. Thank you for your support.

Bubble Closure/Isolation

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some confusion over who has to isolate etc. It is anybody who has been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 (less than 1 metre for more than a minute, 1-2 metres for more than 15 minutes); as a school the Headteacher carries out the contact tracing, and therefore I contact the staff and parents of the children who are affected. We have had scenarios where staff only have come into contact with a source and therefore the children have not had to self-isolate, and also where the children have come into contact but the teacher has maintained their distance and therefore the teacher has not had to self-isolate. Thank you for understanding and maintaining our requests for self-isolation at all times.

Barney, our school therapy dog

Barney has settled well into our school, and I thank you all for welcoming him. We are now in a position where we would like to commence small amounts of therapy work (details on the permission letter attached). Please can you complete the permission letter and return to your class teacher by 20th

November. I have also attached to the email our school policy and risk assessment for having Barney in our setting.

All Diary Dates including the Christmas Period

Please note that all diary dates can be accessed on the school website calendar on www.stherberts.oldham.sch.uk

As you all know, Christmas activities will look very different this year. However, we are striving to provide the celebrations within a different format whilst keeping safe (we are 'thinking out of the box'!)

Friday 27th November **Foodbank Friday**

Friday 4th December 1:30pm **Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Concert** – this will take the same format as the Macmillan Coffee Event that we held by zoom. (You need to provide the refreshments!) The children will sing a song, presented by Mrs Milligan, via zoom at 1:30pm, with a justgiving fundraising page created for a charity to be confirmed.

Tuesday 15th December **Christmas Party Afternoon** – this year children will hold their parties in their classrooms, and Fr Christmas will appear via zoom from the North Pole! Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold Christmas Lunch this year, however on Christmas Party Day the catering team are going to provide a special lunch for those on dinners, and the children on packed lunches can bring in special items as a one-off treat eg: chocolate, cakes, sweets etc.

Wednesday 16th December 10:00am We are hoping to celebrate **Mass**, virtually with Fr Lawrence, however this is to be confirmed nearer the time.

Wednesday 16th December 7pm **Whole School Nativity** –viewing of our production live from Mrs Milligan's living room!
We cannot hold any productions in school, so thinking out of the box, we are going to create our own pre-recorded Nativity presentation. Each class will perform a scene of the Nativity with Mrs Milligan narrating the story and linking the scenes together. We invite your families to zoom in at 7pm to view the special Christmas Story.

Thursday 17th December **Christmas Jumper Day**
Weather permitting, we are hoping to bring the children together maintaining their bubbles, in the playground (similar to what we did at Remembrance) to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and sing some carols together.
Christmas Raffle – tickets will go on sale w/c 7th December £1 a strip and be sold to the children in their bubbles; the draw will take place during our reflection and carol singing!

Friday 18th December **Christmas Assembly via zoom at 9:30am, and School closes at 1.30pm.**

Re-opens Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Zoom links will be sent out nearer the time, and as always we ask that you keep them private to safeguard our children. We cannot provide recordings of any of the events due to copyright and safeguarding guidelines, hence why we are trying to give you as much notice as possible of the events.

Thank you for your on-going support, and we hope to provide a lovely Holy Season for the children and their families.

Kind Regards

Mrs S J Milligan

Twitter: @mrs_smilligan