



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people...' Galatians 6:10

17th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 2 Newsletter – Merry Christmas and Welcome to 2021

Well Term 2 was certainly another very busy term, culminating in our Christmas celebrations that we held this week. Whilst these were very different to our usual FS2/Key Stage 1 performances and our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert, as a result of the ongoing pandemic, we were still able to come together as a community to celebrate this very special period within the Christian calendar. On Monday it was the turn of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 who shared the story of the Nativity through signing to a number of Christmas carols. I have to say I was amazed at how quickly all the children had learnt sign language to be able to sign. On Tuesday it was the turn of Key Stage 2 who retold the Christmas story through traditional lessons, poems and prayer. Despite the different virtual format, the pupils really stepped up to the occasion, speaking fluently and with expression.

As always, it was an absolute honour to be part of the children's performances, both in FS2 and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, as we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas. I continue to be exceptionally proud of all of the children here at Spalding Parish and not least during these performances given the way they responded to a completely different approach. They never cease to amaze me with their talents and I do feel very proud and extremely lucky to be part of their educational journeys. My sincere thanks must go to all the children and staff for their hard work in ensuring the performances went well.

I would also like to say a very special thank you to you all for your support with our fundraising as part of our Christmas celebrations including our Christmas Wrap, Christmas Raffle and Christmas jumper day. With your support we have managed to raise over £1000 for our chosen Christmas charities, which I'm sure you will agree is a fantastic amount of money. A huge thank you to all who donated, it is very much appreciated.

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very peaceful New Year. May peace and happiness reign in your home this Christmas and may your New Year be filled with blessings for you all. It is fair to say that 2020 has been a year like no other and I hope 2021 brings new hope for the whole SPCEDS community.



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Car Parking

Please remember to park courteously for the safety of all our community whilst respecting our neighbours. Please park legally allowing the safe use of the road and pavements for all. Do not park on the public footpath as it makes it dangerous with the numbers of people using them. If you are just dropping your child off, please park up and ensure their safe exit from the vehicle on to the pavement so they can then walk safely into school. The closer to school you get the more congested it is so if you are able to park further away, or even walk all the way to and from school, this would be appreciated.

Please remember the school car parks are for staff parking only, for deliveries and for Local Authority taxis where pupils are eligible to transport. We have had a number of occasions recently where the taxis have not been able to park safely as a result of vehicles that should not have been using the car parks. If I could please ask for your support in parking appropriately to ensure the safety of the whole school community.

E-Safety

At this time of year, when electronic items and new technology are likely to be a popular gift, I would ask you to reflect again on the safe use of the internet. During Terms 3 and 4, as part of our continuous education about children keeping themselves safe; we will be undertaking further work on e-Safety. If you would like to keep your child safe online do not hesitate to speak with Katey Robinson, UKS2 Leader and our e-Safety officer.

You can also access information via our website by clicking on the Learning tab and then clicking on the hyperlink: Staying Safe.

Harvest Collection

Thank you for all your donations of dried and tinned foods for our Harvest Collection. Agape have been in touch and shared their thanks as without such continued support their vital work would not be able to continue. Christmas and the New Year are a very busy time of the year for Agape supporting families within our local community. Should you have any further items you'd like to donate, I know they would be gratefully received. You can find Agape based at The Lighthouse Church in Haverfield Road here in Spalding.

Hot Lunches

Our menus for Term 3 are now available with a two week menu now in place. Please remember to book meals by midnight on a Sunday night for the following week using the following link: <https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?mID=156735&ACT=nav>

Whilst bookings for the week beginning 4th January are now closed to ensure orders can be placed and received given the Christmas period, meals can still be ordered for week beginning 11th January, just remember to book by Sunday 3rd January.

Illness

On our return to school in January we will continue to respond to the pandemic and in order to maintain the safety of the whole school community should your child or any member of your household present with any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) please do not send them to school.

The symptoms are:



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- A **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- A **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

To protect others, **the whole household needs to isolate for 10 days** and the person with symptoms should book a test to check if they have coronavirus. Similarly if you have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus you do need to self-isolate for 10 days, only the people in contact with the person testing positive needs to self-isolate. Given the continuing rise in cases across the country, it is imperative that we all follow this guidance so that we can continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the whole school community. As a school we continue to do all we can to keep your children safe and would ask you to continue to do so too – thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Similarly should your child be unwell and they have sickness and diarrhoea, as we are dealing with lots of children all confined in classrooms together, do not send them back to school until 48 hours after their last bout. Supporting us with this will stop the spreading of these conditions. Thank you.

If you need any guidance regarding illnesses and whether your child can be in school or not if they have a particular condition, please refer to the poster by clicking this link:

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

Similarly an overview of COVID symptoms compared to common childhood illnesses can be found here:

https://www.google.com/search?q=cold+or+covid&rlz=ICIGCEA_enGB767GB767&sxsrf=ALeKk02TM+OGWR8hmWXL0M9ztNAhCHIS6Q:1608158951839&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKFwjG9MP4ytPtAhULV8AKHcc6DvMQ_AUoAXoECCEQAw&biw=1366&bih=576&sa.fe=active&ssui=on#imgcr=TlSlhsYfYDRh-M

Parish Post

Term 2 2019 also saw the launch of our new weekly newsletter The Parish Post. It was introduced to celebrate and share all that is great about Spalding Parish including Head Teachers Awards, Attendance Awards and weekly news from each Phase. Next term will also hopefully see the reintroduction of our weekly House point awards. I hope you all enjoy reading about all that is happening here at school and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their regular contributions to the newsletter, it is very much appreciated. If you do have any feedback about our newsletter, including any items you would like to see included, please get in touch. Thank you.

Reporting a Positive Case during the Christmas Break.

From the 18th December until 23rd December, if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, so up until and including 19th December, schools have been asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the child may have been infectious whilst in school. As part of the Lincoln Anglican Academies Trust, the school always notify the Trust of a positive case and, as such, the Trust have asked that they are the first port of call for reporting a positive case during the holiday period.



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Should you need to report a positive case during this period, please email leanne@laat.co.uk with:

Child's Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Class:

School:

Date of positive test result:

Date child developed symptoms:

Please do not phone the school as phone lines will not be monitored.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, so from 20th December onwards, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, the school do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Start and End of Day Routines

A huge thank you to all of our parent body for ensuring their children are in school at the appropriate time, it is very much appreciated. Our staggered start and end of day will continue as we head into Term 3 and I must ask please that you do abide by the timings in place for your child. We have an increasing number of parents and carers arriving early and waiting at the gate at 8.30am and 3.00pm despite the fact that the doors do not open at the start of the day until 8.35am and until 3.05pm at the end of the day. The staggered timings are to ensure the safety of all.

Given the speculation regarding the impact of the Christmas period on the spread of the virus I must also ask that parents/carers do continue to follow all the guidance we have put in place to keep the school community as safe as possible whilst on site.

St Mary and St Nicolas Parish Church Carol Service

With our close links to the Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicolas I thought it was worth sharing details of their carol service should any of our families wish to attend. The carol service will be held on Sunday 20th December at 5pm outside in the circle at the front of the church. The hope is that it will present one of the few occasions when people can gather (socially distanced) to sing carols this Christmas. The service is called 'Christmas in Person' and will tell the Christmas story through characters and carols.

Last Words

Thank you once again for all your continued support during the academic year so far. I wish you peace and joy to you all this Christmas season and look forward to seeing you all in January.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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