# End of term newsletter December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the autumn term is upon us and Christmas holidays approach. Advent has been a wonderful time for our school community. School assemblies have focused on preparing to greet Jesus; God’s greatest gift to us.

It goes without saying that Christmas preparations in school have been very different this year but just as enjoyable. Foundation Stage have performed their Nativity titled, “Mary's Knitting,” Key Stage 1 performed, “A Magical Christmas Journey,” and Key Stage 2 performed their Carol Concert. All three productions were recorded and shared via our YouTube Channel. The pupils across the whole school were outstanding in their singing and performances of the nativity story; well done to them all. A big thank you too, to our unsung heroes – all the staff who ensured the children and the props were prepared and ready and especially to Mr Hayes who patiently edited all the video clips together.

Our usual trip to Westminster Cathedral for the Catholic Children Society’s Carol Service was replaced by their own remote recording. You can watch it here:

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/resources/advent-2020/>

It has been an action packed term and there are a few highlights I would like to mention.

Undoubtedly, the lockdown resulted in lost learning but our ‘back on track’ strategy is going well. Both pupils and staff have worked extremely hard this term and the learning in school has been fantastic. Art week proved a wonderful addition to our normal curriculum provision. Each class created an almost life size replica of a key worker. It was great fun if a little messy.

The Head Boy and Girl along with their deputies and the class reps were appointed to the School Council along with the Chaplaincy Team. They have been hard at work on various projects including the publication of their first newsletter, “The Democrat” which is available on our website. Over the last few weeks they have also organised a reverse Advent Calendar. This initiative has seen families donate to hampers for the local food bank at The Vineyard. Your support and generosity has been amazing and the lesson that our children learn from your example of charity and care for the less fortunate in our community is invaluable. Thank you.

This morning we celebrated our end of term mass with Father Francis. Father Francis has also said mass in Year 4 this term, to celebrate their delayed First Holy Communion. As part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating other world faiths, a Sikhism Week was held in school in November. Children from Nursery to Year 6 had the opportunity to learn about the Sikh faith including the teachings of Guru Nanak, sacred writings and Sikh beliefs and values.

As part of the Wellbeing Team’s focus on caring for one-another, Anti-Bullying Week was merged with World Kindness Day and the pupils and staff were encouraged to perform small acts of kindness around the school. We are blessed with wonderfully behaved children at St. Adrian’s. This happens because of the consistent approach to behaviour expectations across the whole school and the support of the parent community. Weeks such as Anti-Bullying Week reinforce these expectations. Thank you for your ongoing support.

A huge thank you to our cooks who have been a great help all term. They have coped brilliantly with the revised lunch service and their Christmas lunch on Thursday was a great success. Following the lunch, pupils from Reception and KS1 were able to visit Santa’s Grotto. Thank you to the PTA for organising this. In fact, the PTA have been hard at work supporting fund raising which has been an almost impossible task with the current Covid19 restrictions. Please continue to support their efforts.

Amongst all these activities, we have continued to push for further improvements in our curriculum provision. Our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner has visited the school twice to conduct ‘deep dives’ into areas of the curriculum. I am pleased to report that the feedback was positive and we are expecting her return in the spring for further reviews.

The school closed for Christmas break today and reopens to pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in our community for supporting St Adrian’s in so many different ways. We have had a very good term with much to celebrate and be grateful for. May I wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.

With best wishes,

Dominic Bedford

**Please read the following.**

**Department for Education update to the government’s response to coronavirus (COVID-19).**

We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

* Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
* For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
* School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.

**If you need to report a positive case to the school, you should do so by email to admin@stadrians.herts.sch.uk. We will check for emails daily between 10 am and 12 noon from Saturday 19th up to and including Thursday 24th December.**

**Some dates for your diary:**

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| January4th Staff inset day5th Pupils return to school9th Feast of St Adrian15th New term mass18th – 22nd Energy saving week | February 1st – 5th Children’s mental health week5th Report cards8th – 11th Parent consultations9th Safer internet day12th Year 4 assembly15th -19th Half term22nd Pupils return to school26th Year 3 assembly |