

All Saints

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Terling Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1JT

Tel: 020 8270 4242

Fax: 020 8595 4024

Email: office@allsaintsschool.co.uk

www.allsaintsschool.co.uk

Head Teacher:

Clare Cantle. BSc (Hons). MA(ed)

CCA/MH

14th December 2020

Dear Parents,

We come to the end of a very busy term. Covid has not stopped us and we have managed to keep school open safely. We have been able to achieve this due to the excellent support of our premises team, cleaning staff, teaching & support staff, pupils and parents.

Things have been different but as ever, we know we can rely on the students and their resilience, positive attendance and daily demonstrations of RUAH.

There is so much to celebrate, not least our recognition as a national flagship school for Inclusion but also our ongoing charity fundraising work.

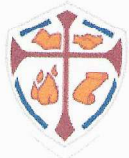
MacMillan Cancer Charity	£5369 raised
Red Wednesday	£500 raised
Christmas Food Hampers	50
Shoe Box Appeal	240 shoe boxes
Christmas Jumper Day	£1250

Our carol service has taken place virtually. I hope that you will be able to watch it as a family as we complete our advent preparations and whilst there is much to celebrate, we must acknowledge there is much we need to consider in relation to staff and pupil's safety.

As you will have seen the DfE have said that the 18th December 2020 will be an INSET day. Staff will be completing training online on this day. I have also the need to carry out an extreme deep clean of the whole school site prior to the closedown for the safety of all. As a result, Thursday's lessons will be online. Full attendance from Yrs. 7-13 is expected for periods 1 & 2. Lessons will be delivered live. Period 3 will be our Annual final assembly. Registers will be taken for lessons as this is a school day.

With regard to a return, the 4th January 2021 will now be an INSET day. All pupils will return at the usual staggered start time on the 5th January 2021 for their week 2 timetable.





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Additional measure

Infection rates in North East London are incredibly high. We need to do all we can to keep our community safe. Public Health England and LBBD are to put in extra testing sites.

All staff will need to complete a covid test prior to their return and produce this on the 4th January. All pupils in Yrs. 11-13 will need to attend a centre and produce evidence of a negative test also on their return on the 5th January. This is not just happening at All Saints but across the Borough. It is a measure to try and stop the virus and to make the levels in this area lower as they are now the highest in England. If they are unable to produce evidence of a negative test they may be on remote learning for the first two weeks of term. As you can imagine this is not a decision taken lightly but one being adopted by all secondary headteachers in Barking & Dagenham. This is to ensure the safety of all in our community and to try and avoid a devastating third wave. Guidance will be sent out prior to the end of term

In the new year it is predicated that staff in schools will receive weekly self-administrated tests and mass flow testing will be available for pupils. I appreciate the increasing covid levels may concern you, but together by adhering to the testing and guidance we will all be safe.

On a positive note we have sent home the Christmas newsletter to give you an insight into what we have been doing at All Saints.

I cannot express how grateful I am for your positive messages, support and kindness.

I wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas and health and happiness in 2021.

With every good wish

Clare Cantle
Headteacher