



18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a year 2020 has been! We could never have prepared for what has been, but what we can always rely on is that our school community will rise to the challenge. There are elements of the year that I am sure we want to forget but there has been a lot of good that has come out of 2020. As we end our Advent term, I have reflected on the Advent themes: HOPE – the rainbow as a symbol of hope took a whole new meaning for our school and resulted in the beautiful book started in lockdown which we will treasure; PEACE – we had the opportunity to stop and concentrate on what is important to us, in school we took time in mindfulness sessions and we were at peace; JOY – 2nd September 2020 will go down in history as the happiest and most joyful first day back to school and finally LOVE – the love that our school community shows today and everyday will never been taken for granted! The children have been so resilient to all the changes to their lives and all the losses they have had to deal with since March. Well done to you all – pupils, parents, family members, staff, governors and our St Ralph Sherwin family of schools - we are so lucky to be part of the English Martyrs' family.

Thank You's

The Pantomime was a great success (Oh yes it was!!), a BIG thank you to all the lovely FEM volunteers who have spent so many hours thinking of 'socially distanced' events and ways to raise the money in a challenging year. A BIG thank you to all the families who have supported FEM events this year, we look forward to many more next year. We couldn't have done it without you!

Well done to all our KS1 and Reception children for performing their socks off, they were brilliant and we are very proud of them all. It was such a shame that you couldn't come into school to see their performance as it is always a highlight of the school year but it means we will have to go even BIGGER next year! The staff are using all the Christmas wishes to not having to use technology next year. A private link will be shared as soon as the video has been edited and fingers crossed for no technical hitches. Watch this space!

Thank you to all our teachers, teaching assistants, admin staff, premises officer, midday supervisors, and not forgetting Miss Lee, our sports coach, our Becket Music staff, Fr Christopher and Fr Andrew, and all our school community. Each one of you plays a vital role in our school life and it is greatly appreciated.

Messages via Parent Hub

Apologies for the many, many messages, letters and correspondence that comes via Parent Hub but in these tricky times it seems the best way to communicate to you all.

This evening there will be information sent in regards to the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and health education that became statutory in September this year and with the expectation that the teaching the curriculum is in place by summer term 2021. In preparation we are providing parents with our policy, a leaflet for parents, primary curriculum framework and primary school guidance documents. We hope by providing this information now there is reasonable opportunities for parents to digest all the information. We have a Forms questionnaire for you to provide your views which will only take a few minutes of your time.

Link for questionnaire –

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OFYcIXnjhUaRUHyDCcoxaRglrMP2WpdPu7fwUaaljsFUNTgzV01KR044TkZGOFpHMk5VME9CNUc4Vi4u>

Charities

EM family you have surpassed all expectation so far this year in terms of supporting our charities – we have collected for the Canaan Trust, supported Children in Need, raised £228.25 for the Poppy Appeal, donated for our local food banks, supported our pupils' raising money for NDCYS and for buying our Rainbow book with all profit going to our friends in Our Lady of Hope, in Ghana.

COVID-19 notifications

Over the Christmas period, please can you support our school community by following the guidance from Public Health England.

- Do not send your child into school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste / smell). If you feel that any of these are present, please support school staff and other pupils by keeping your child at home. Any siblings must stay at home as well – even if they have no symptoms.
- Arrange for a test for anyone who has symptoms; as soon as you notice them, and let the school know the outcome. If a child tests positive and symptoms started on Sunday 20 December or earlier, you will need to contact the school via the school office enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk so that they can start tracking close contacts.
- Where one member of the household has symptoms, everyone in the household must stay at home until the person with symptoms has a negative test.
- Where one member of the household tests positive, everyone in the household must isolate for 10 days.

As the Christmas holidays are only two weeks long, there is a chance you or your child have already been in contact with someone who has tested positive. If you do take a test over the Christmas period or if a family member develop symptoms please ensure you email the school at enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk

Just a thought ...

This time of year can be very tough for some people and it is not always as joyful for everyone. Please think of those people who are lonely and spending Christmas without loved ones. Our prayers go out to those who cannot be with their family this Christmas.

It is also a time of year where money can be tighter than usual. We need to support our local community, especially at Christmas.



If you can donate food, money or your time to our local food bank, please visit, <https://longeatonsawley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/> for more information. There is also information about how to get help for those people who have reached crisis point on the website.

Safeguarding Children

Being a parent or carer can be hard work. Most families face challenges in bringing up their children at some point, whether they are babies or teenagers. If you're worried about a child in the local area, it is vital you tell someone. If you'd like help and advice or you'd like to request support for a child during the Christmas break you can contact Derbyshire County Council via their website, <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/social-care-and-health.aspx> or by telephoning 01629 535353 for advice. If you live in Nottinghamshire and have concerns about a child in your locality you can contact Nottinghamshire County Council via their website <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-and-families-alliance/pathway-to-provision/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash> or by telephoning 0300 500 80 90.

We have a school email address for all safeguarding concerns that will be monitored over the Christmas period by our Designated Safeguarding Team. If you have any concerns please email safeguarding@englishmartyrs.derbyshire.sch.uk

All that is left for me to say is I hope you have a lovely Christmas, I hope it is a healthy one and I look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

E Jones

Emma Jones
Acting Headteacher