



ISSUE NUMBER 14

DATE 11 December 2020

I would like to thank all of you for your very swift responses this week as we have had to close classes. I know we have prepared for this, but it is good to see that (I hope!) the systems work.

For those of you who have been asked to self-isolate, the staff are setting work on Microsoft teams. As we said, lessons will be uploaded to be completed during the day and each staff member will be available "live" at some point if you need to have a chat with them.

I am very aware that many of you are worried about the children still in school, especially as we approach Christmas. I really appreciate the honesty of you who have sent in your reasons for keeping your children off school. You will also know that the government is very clear that schools must remain open and that children should be attending. This means that I am not allowed to authorise absences unless you have been officially told to self-isolate. We will not be asking the borough to issue fines in these situations.

You will have read in the news this week that the government is suggesting we move an Inset day to next Friday and finish school on the 17th December. We will not be doing this. Our Inset days are set and planned for the year and are an important part of staff training- not a "day off"! In our last one, staff learned how to use Microsoft Teams and in January we will be holding Pupil Progress meetings. In addition to this, we feel that this would cause many of you last minute child care issues when you least need them. I am immeasurably grateful, as always, that the senior Leadership team (Mrs Porter, Miss Byrne, Mrs Cahill and Mrs Vyas) have agreed to help with the track and trace which will need to take place up to 24th December. Details of how this will work will go out next week.

In the meantime, please keep safe and follow the rules. Masks SHOULD be worn on the school premises by all over 12 and only ONE person picking up per family. If you have to bring older (secondary) children with you, please ask them to wait at the front of the school. The chances are we will have more cases in the New Year, but let's do all we can to keep these to a minimum.

In nice news! We had a marvellous Christmas dinner on Wednesday; many, many thanks to Marissa and her team for all their hard work. As well as providing us with extra crackers, the PA also arranged that Fr Christmas took time out of his schedule to visit the school with his sledge (and photographer!)

Mrs Porter and I will be taking your very generous donations to the Food Bank this morning. We are hoping it will only be one journey, but it's looking doubtful- thank you so much for your contributions



## **Please don't forget to pre-order your child/children's lunch for next week**

### **Early Finish 18 December 2020**

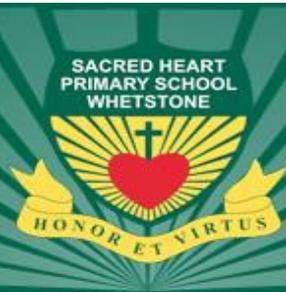
We break for the end of term on Friday 18 December 2019. It is traditional for us to finish slightly early on the last day before the Christmas break. The Infants will finish at 2.00 pm and the Juniors at 1.50 pm.

Please complete the permission for your child on Parentmail **indicating who will collect him / her**. If it is not going to be a relative, you will need to let the office know via email. All children **must** be collected by an adult. We require this information by **Monday 14 December 2020**. If you are having any issues accessing Parentmail please contact the school office.

### **Admission to FS Sept 2021**

If you are applying for a place in FS for your child (born between 1/9/2016 and 31/8/2017), please return your completed SIF and supporting documents to [admissions@sacredheart.barnetmail.net](mailto:admissions@sacredheart.barnetmail.net) by Friday 18th December.

You **MUST** also submit an e-application through your home council - by 15th January 2021.



**Please do not send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:**

**A high temperature** – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back

· **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

· **A loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste** – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

It is also important that you **do not send your child to school** if somebody in your household has tested positive for, or has symptoms of, coronavirus.

As a precaution, your child must not come into school for **14 days** after coronavirus has been identified in your household, whether confirmed or unconfirmed.

Please notify the **school office** via **telephone and email** as soon as possible if your child, or somebody in your household, is showing symptoms of coronavirus and your child cannot come into school

**ParentMail**

We use Parentmail for after school club bookings, trips and visits, permissions and any other items that we need parent/carers to approve. If you are having problems registering please contact [office@sacredheart.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@sacredheart.barnetmail.net) as we may not have the most up to date email address for you.

**After school Club**

After school club bookings MUST be made on Parentmail. If you are a new user and will be paying by Childcare vouchers, please let the office know as soon as possible. There will no longer be any **emergency bookings** so please ensure you book in advance. **You will be able to cancel and make changes to bookings yourselves.**

**Breakfast Club**

Non Stop Action run breakfast club, bookings can be made via the website [www.NonStopAction.co.uk](http://www.NonStopAction.co.uk) or by phone 0208 446 0006.



## **Dates for the Diary**

### **Parents Association**

#### **Non Uniform Day & Christmas Grotto**

It was lovely to see the children looking their best to see Father Christmas. Thank you so much for your donations which raised £336.23.

It was truly wonderful to see all the children (even year 5 and 6 who are not so cool about seeing Santa after all!) getting excited to meet Santa. Photos taken by our lovely professional photographer Emily Grilli (mum to Ollie 5A) can be purchased for £5 each with all proceeds going to the school. All you need to do is text Angela Soave on 07900 903799 with your child's name and class and the details of how to make payment will be sent to you. The photo will be a digital image that will be sent to you via WhatsApp for you to use as you wish making lovely gifts for family and friends (and perfect to keep for end of year books).

The Grotto takes an incredible amount of work which involves the setting up of the Grotto itself by Chris and Emily Grilli over the weekend, the purchasing of 400 toys, Emily having to sit for hours and hours on both Monday and Tuesday patiently taking photos of all the children, our super elves Gabrielle Price (mum to Lois 2J and Hollie 6J), Julie Lanigan (mum to Harry 2A and Tommy 4A) and Claudia Centanni (mum to Mia 5A and Ella 6A) standing in the freezing cold for hours and hours and of course, Father Christmas himself who ho ho ho'd all day long. A big thank you to these amazing people and to all of you who have passed on lovely messages of thanks and are purchasing the gorgeous photos to help with our fundraising.

### **Secret Gift**

It's not too late for your children to buy you or another loved one something special this Christmas. Please see the flyer that has been sent out via Class Reps and on our Facebook page. All gifts are £5 but grown-ups, whilst you can place the order (details on page 1 of the flyer), no peeking at the gifts on page 2!!

### **Christmas Raffle**

A big thank you to all those who have bought Raffle tickets which has raised an incredible £3559!!! This has far exceeded our expectations and we are so grateful as



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we know many of you purchased more than you would normally do to compensate for the shortfall in our fundraising with events being cancelled.

The Raffle draw is taking place today and winners will be announced over the weekend on our Facebook page "Sacred Heart Families" and via the Class Reps. Good luck to you all.

### **Silent Auction**

Bids have now been closed and an amazing £1705 has been pledged. Thank you again for your incredible generosity in placing bids. Winners of successful bids will be contacted shortly. A huge huge thank you to Rachel Spraggon (mum to Leo, 2A) who coordinated not only the Silent Auction but also the Christmas Ho Ho Ho programme and raffle prizes.

### **Homestart in Barnet**

For the third year running, Bread n Butter CIC (a social enterprise run by Filomena Komodromou, mum to Daniel 6A) will be providing some Christmas cheer to families supported by local charity Homestart. Each Christmas, with the help of some lovely Sacred Heart families, hampers full of food and Christmas goodies are made up and delivered to families across Barnet, Brent and Harrow. This year they have launched a bigger and better campaign #hampersfromhomestart with the aim of reaching out to more families. As we know, this year in particular, things are going to be pretty tough for a lot of people so please help spread some festive cheer and give a family in need a very happy Christmas by donating what you can to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hampers-for-homestart>

Also, please do not forget that Waitrose Whetstone have also partnered with Homestart in Barnet this year to provide toys to children who may otherwise not receive anything this Christmas. They are asking for donations of NEW toys, books and arts and crafts supplies to give children from the ages of 1-11 a better Christmas this year. If you are able to donate any presents, these can be dropped off at Waitrose on Tuesday 15th December, 4pm – 5pm.

Newsletter



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This is a public health poster from the NHS. It has a dark blue background. At the top left is the HM Government logo, and at the top right is the NHS logo. The main text in yellow reads 'We must keep on protecting each other.' Below this are three circular icons: a pink circle with hands being washed (labeled 'HANDS'), a blue circle with a face mask (labeled 'FACE'), and a green circle with two people and a double-headed arrow between them (labeled 'SPACE'). At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text 'STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES'.