



# NEWSLETTER – Friday 11th December 2020

**“Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing”**

**Trust, Respect, Faith, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Determination, Curiosity**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Firstly, I would like to confirm that we are remaining open to pupils on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. I know some schools are taking the opportunity to close a day early so that Heads and Senior Leaders are not 'on call' on Christmas Eve for COVID-19 contact tracing (more about that later in the newsletter!), but we have taken the view that we do not wish to cause any additional disruption for families or pupils. We have lots planned for the last day! ☺*

The Good News of Jesus gives us reason to be joyful at all times of year, but especially during Advent, when we look forward to Jesus' coming at Christmas and at the end of time. John the Baptist's words preparing his followers for Jesus' ministry are as true for us today: 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.' (Matthew 3)

Our Advent assemblies, liturgies and whole school retreat over the past fortnight have shown the children how to prepare their hearts for Christmas by loving and caring for others, thinking of others before themselves and remembering Jesus' love for them

Our children, RE team and music team, ably assisted by the superb videography skills of Mr Holmes, surpassed themselves this year in creating a moving and uplifting Advent liturgy. If you haven't yet seen it, (or you'd like to watch it again), you can watch it via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBO5Q9ZzBZ8>

I would also like to say a huge thank you to the KS1 team, led by Mrs Helen Homes, for preparing such a wonderful performance of this year's nativity play, 'An angel, a star and a stable'. It never fails to bring a tear to the eye as the children retell such a poignant and pivotal story with such simplicity and love. This link will be with all KS1 parents via email on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. We will also be featured on Radio Derby talking about how we have managed to be put on a nativity play in COVID times! We will share the link to the interview as soon as we have it!

We also look forwards to watching FS2's Christmas Extravaganza, which we will be emailed out to all parents of children in classes 1 and 2 on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. If the rehearsals have been anything to go by, you will be in for a real treat!

The excitement continues next week with our virtual visit to the pantomime to watch 'Jack and the Beanstalk' on Thursday. We will be watching the pantomime online in our bubbles. Very kindly, Miss Lewis's father has paid for sweets for all of the children to enjoy during this online performance to make their experience extra special. We can't wait!

Finally, with just one more week to go, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year. We look forwards to seeing you in the New Year and here's to a healthy and happy 2021!

**Mrs Snowdon-Poole**  
**Headteacher**



### ***Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases over the Christmas Break***

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 during the Christmas break, please email a copy of the test result to [covid19@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk) and we shall get back to you via a phone call for further information regarding contact tracing. It is really important to let us know, so that we can inform anyone who has come into contact with the affected pupil. Please do not ring school as we will be unable to pick up these messages. Many thanks.

### ***St Ralph Sherwin Hardship Fund***

The St Ralph Sherwin Trust, a family of 25 Catholic academies, acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly in light of the adverse effects of the Coronavirus in 2020 on the community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trust Hardship Fund.

The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students of our academies and intended to help students who are experiencing difficulty through hardship in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses
- Uniform, shoes, or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

There is also potential for relieving hardship during recognised Academy holidays by providing access to one free school meal each day for those students.

Students may be eligible to apply for grants from the Hardship Fund if:

- Their household income is less than £25,000 per year
- Their parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits, including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit/Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit...provided the student is not entitled to Free School Meals
- At the sole discretion of the Headteacher - any student who does not fall under the categories above but considers themselves to be in a state of financial hardship

Further details regarding the Fund, and how to apply, are detailed in the Hardship Fund policy which can be accessed here on our school website:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stgeorgescva/UploadedDocument/86f114fc6d764ed7876ef5dfe3693736/hardship-policy.pdf>

### ***Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day***

As we are currently in tier 3, we continue to require **all adults** to wear masks (unless medically exempt) during drop off and collection of pupils. Please do not be offended if we ask adults not wearing a mask their reasons for not doing so. We do this to protect our pupils, staff and families.

Let's also make sure that we continue to:

- **Wait in zoned areas when it is your time slot to collect. Waiting in zoned areas in advance of your time slot causes unnecessary congestion on the playground and blocks the sight lines of staff.**
- **Make sure that if you have collected your first child but have another later slot to collect other siblings, please exit the playground and come back in when it is the correct time slot for your next pick up. Again, this will reduce congestion further.**
- **Whilst waiting for classes to come out, please do not allow your children to run around the playground or mix more widely whilst waiting to pick up siblings. They need to stand next to you in the correct zoned area.**
- **Only wait in the allocated zoned areas (not at tables, benches, by fences etc) as this enables children to be**



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



dismissed without meeting children from other bubbles.

### ***Adverse Weather Conditions***

Please do send your children to school with hats, gloves, coats and wellies (if possible) so that they can continue to access outdoor learning and play. Some children have been wearing hoodies to school instead of coats but these just are not warm enough. I do not anticipate that we should need to close school due to snowy conditions any time soon, but if this is ever the case, we shall contact you as close to 7am as possible on the day of closure (or earlier if possible) via a text message. Our website will also prominently display this information on our 'ticker' at the top of our homepage. Please do ensure that you have signed up for ParentMail so that you are able to receive such important messages. In snowy/icy weather, we also kindly ask that you do not drive down our road, but park on the estate and walk down.

### ***Winter School Uniform – Appropriate Footwear***

In snowy/wet weather, boots may be worn to school but must be changed for school shoes before lessons begin.

### ***Winter PE Kit***

Outdoor PE will still take place during the colder months, but children are allowed to wear black plain jogging bottoms and a plain sweatshirt/zip up top in their house colour. They should also wear their house t-shirt underneath. Children will require trainers as well as pumps. Please do ensure all items are labelled. **Any donations of spare PE kit would be great appreciated. These can be sent in with your child via the school office. Many thanks.**

### ***E-Safety Information – Instagram***

#### **What's the problem?**

- There have been lots of media stories about bullying on Instagram, and children seeing harmful images and advice about weight loss, self-harm and suicide
- It's the top platform for online 'grooming' – gangs use it to recruit children, and strangers can use it to contact your child and ask them for naked pictures, or to send photos to your child
- Children can feel pressure to look a certain way – for example, feeling like they should look like other users who share weight-loss content
- **The minimum age to have an account is 13**, but it's easy to pretend to be older to sign up
- In August 2020, Instagram launched a new feature called 'reels', where users can share short videos with effects and music with their followers and with other Instagram users, similar to TikTok. If your child has a public account, their 'reels' might appear on Instagram's 'Explore' page, meaning strangers could watch and comment on a video they've shared

#### **3 steps to help keep you child safe on Instagram**

1. **Set profile to 'private' to limit what strangers can see** - Instagram accounts are viewable by anyone, by default. Change this to 'private' so that only people who your child approves will be able to 'follow' them and see content they share, including 'reels'. Anyone can send you a photo or video directly, though. To do this, go to 'Settings' (tap the person icon in the bottom-right of the app home screen, then tap the 3 lines in the top-right and choose 'Settings'), then go to Privacy > Account Privacy, and turn on 'Private Account'. Tell them to only 'approve' people they know and trust in real life.
2. **Restrict comments and interactions on posts to limit harmful interactions** - Open 'Settings', go to 'Privacy', and then (iPhone) 'Comment controls' or (Android) 'Comments'. Here, your child can:
  - On iPhone only, choose who to allow comments from (under 'Allow comments from')
  - Block specific people from interacting with their posts (under 'Block comments from')
  - Automatically hide comments that might be offensive (under 'Hide offensive comments') – also known as the 'anti-bullying filter'
  - Choose words and emojis they never want to see on their posts (under 'Manual filter')
3. **Make sure your child knows about restricting, blocking and reporting** - Restricting is a feature meant to tackle bullying, that's a bit of a halfway house to blocking someone. If you restrict someone, other people won't see their comments on your posts, and you won't be notified about their comments or messages from them either.



You can still view their comments and approve or delete them. They also won't see when you've read their messages.

**To restrict someone:**

- Swipe to the left (iPhone) or tap and hold (Android) on a comment they've left on your post, tap the exclamation mark, and then Restrict; or
- Go to their profile, tap the 3 dots in the top-right, then choose restrict Young people are often reluctant to block others, so reassure your child that blocking and reporting is anonymous.
- To block an account, tap the 3 dots at the top-right of the person's profile (to get there, tap their username at the top of a post), then choose 'Block', then tap 'Block' again to confirm
- To report a photo in a feed, tap the 3 dots icon at the top of the post, then tap 'Report'
- To report a comment, tap the speech bubble below the post, then swipe to the left (iPhone), or (Android) tap and hold on the comment. Tap the exclamation mark, choose whether it's spam or inappropriate, and then select a reason why
- To report an abusive photo, video or message that they've received directly, open the conversation, tap and hold the abusive message, then tap 'Report'. Choose a reason for reporting the message, then tap 'Report' again
- To report a profile, tap the 3 dots in the top-right of the user's profile, then tap 'Report'. Follow the on-screen instructions and choose a reason for reporting the profile

***Remote Learning***

Earlier this term, we emailed out to you log in information for pupils in relation to the 'Busy Things' and 'Century' online learning platforms. These are our remote learning platforms and will be used when/if children need to self-isolate or in the case of a bubble closure. The 'Busy Things' platform is intended for KS1 pupils and the 'Century' platform is for KS2 pupils. Both are really engaging, fun and provide comprehensive curriculum coverage; whilst allowing work to be submitted to the class teacher. Both platforms can also be used for additional home learning should you wish. Teachers have also posted a fortnight's worth of work on the class pages, if you would rather access learning in another format. They will be posting an additional fortnight's work early next week. We are continuing to monitor which families can access online learning and the survey that went out via ParentMail to ascertain whether families have internet access and suitable devices is still open. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so at your earliest opportunity.

***Easy Christmas Gift idea - Turning your child's Christmas art into gift items through 'My Childs Art'***

The children have been busily drawing Christmas pictures that have been uploaded onto [www.mychildsart.co.uk/order](http://www.mychildsart.co.uk/order) ready to be turned into anything from Christmas cards, to gift tags, wrapping paper, candles, jigsaws, place mats, mugs, sweet jars and cushion covers! To view or purchase, all you need is to visit the website and enter our:

**Username: StGeorges**

**Password: D72PPHRr**

All items ordered will be delivered to your home address and school will receive a percentage of the profits, which will be put towards new reading books.

***Our Christmas Plans in this 'new normal'!***

The following events will be filmed with links emailed out to the relevant families on the day of the scheduled event:

Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity
<b>DATE CHANGE!</b> Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation Stage Christmas Extravaganza
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: 9am	End of Term Mass

The following Christmas events will proceed as planned:

Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for pupils and staff





Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: Afternoon	Online Christmas liturgy and celebration to be shared with all children and parents – keep an eye out for the link!
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### Christmas Dinner – Friday 18th December

Christmas dinner will be served on the last day of term, Friday 18th December. All parents of Key Stage 2 children are welcome to book a Christmas dinner for their child/ren at the price of £2.20. Key Stage 1 children are already entitled to a free school meal, but

do let us know if your child is ordinarily sandwiches so that we can order enough meals. If you would like to book a Christmas dinner for your child, please contact the office as soon as possible. Children who are ordinarily dinners will have already had a meal booked for them.

<u>Dates for your Diary...</u>		
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December:	Key Stage 1 Nativity	All events to be filmed and a link will be shared with the relevant families subject to permission.
<b>DATE CHANGE</b> - Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December: 2-3pm	Foundation Stage Christmas Extravaganza	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: 9am	End of Term Mass	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish	All pupils
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for pupils and staff	Please see the information provided in this newsletter.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December: Afternoon	Online Christmas Liturgy and Celebration	All events to be filmed and a link will be shared with the relevant families subject to permission.
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January (Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December are INSET days)</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>All pupils return for the start of the Lent term</b>	<b>All pupils</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January at 9am	Epiphany Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January so that you can join us online
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January: 8:50am	Class 11 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January: 8:50am	Class 12 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 12 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February: All day</b>	<b>INSET</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Lent Half term</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February: 8am	Termly Learning Conference booking goes live	More information to follow
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March: 8:50am	Class 10 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 10 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March: All day	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character in exchange for £1 donation towards restocking our reading shelves.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	Virtual appointments delivered through 'School Cloud'



Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system. More information to follow.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March: 8:50am	Class 1 and Class 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of pupils in Classes 1 and 2 will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April: 9am	Easter Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April: Time TBC	Colour run to raise money for Rainbows Hospice	More information to be shared closer to the time.
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term</b>	<b>All pupils</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term</b>	<b>All pupils</b>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April: 9am	St George's Day Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April so that you can join up online. Pupils to dress as dragons, knights, princes, princesses or villagers. No donation required.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Key Stage 2 SATs Week	All Year 6 pupils
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May: 8:50am	Year 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Year 5 pupils in Classes 10 and 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Pentecost Half term</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June: 3:30pm	New FS2 Parents Information Event	Parents of new FS2 pupils for September 2021 starts.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June: 9am	Mass for SS Peter and Paul	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July: 8:50am	Class 1 and 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 1 and 2 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July: EYFS and KS1 at 9.30am and KS2 at 1.30pm	Sports Day	Subject to government guidance, more information to follow.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> : All day	Transition Days	Subject to government guidance, all pupils will spend most of this time in their new classes/schools.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July: End of Day	Reports go out to parents	All parents and carers
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July: 3:30pm -5pm	Reports Consultation Evening	Appointments to be made should you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about something specific on the report.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July: 5pm-7.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party and Liturgy	Y6 pupils from 5.30-6.30pm We will confirm if parents are able to attend closer to the time, subject to government guidance.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July: 9am	End of Year Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July so that you can join us online
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September is an INSET day)</b>	<b>Summer Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021: All Day</b>	<b>Return to school for the start of Advent term. FS2 - mornings only for the first week</b>	<b>All pupils</b>



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