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Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the Autumn Term and the last week has disappeared very quickly. The children have had lots of fun and there has certainly been a Christmassy feel around the school. Many thanks to all of you for supporting us through the term, in so many ways, and to all the staff who work so hard to ensure that our school is excellent in all ways. Now, everyone deserves a break for a few days to relax and recharge, and, hopefully, spend time with loved ones.

It must also be acknowledged that Covid-19 has continued to factor in how we have been able to carry out some activities. I know it is disappointing not to have more opportunities to gather together in school, particularly at this time of year. On reflection, I think we've done a pretty good job of mitigating the disappointment and managing to still offer most of what we would normally do, albeit in different forms.

I was delighted this week to watch the video of the Infant Nativity performance and have already shared the link for the video with parents of children in the Infant Classes. I attach a letter sent to them earlier in the week, which contains the link, so all parents, governors and friends can enjoy it. I won't be posting the link publicly, though, so please feel free to share the link with family, so they can enjoy the performance, but don't post it on any public forums, such as Twitter or open Facebook pages. I recommend you take the time to watch it, even if your children aren't in the Infant classes; it really is lovely and will bring a smile to your face.

On Wednesday we enjoyed Christmas Dinner. Mrs. Howard and her team prepared a delicious meal for us and Mrs. Stradling and her 'elves' made the dining hall look especially festive. We had to serve in bubble groups, but this didn't dent the mood at all and we all had a great time.

Thank you everyone who was able to join us for our Carol Service yesterday afternoon. I was pleased to see so many of you there. We were delighted to welcome Mr. Cook, Mr. Phillips and the brass players who supported our children's singing. Violet Class led us very well with prayers and readings, Canon John joined us to offer us all a blessing, each Junior class had prepared a carol, and, of course, the Infants stole the show with their enthusiastic reprise of some Nativity songs. Thoughtful refreshments provided by the Friends of Margaret Roper, a mild, dry afternoon; all in all, a lovely end to the term. Thanks everyone and well done!

Next term

The increase in cases of the new Covid-19 variant is worrying, although we certainly hope that the Government will not find it necessary to increase measures that might affect school opening. You will recall that, last year, an announcement was made regarding the need to implement distanced learning very late in the holidays. I certainly hope, and I'm sure you agree, that the best place for our children is

physically present in school, and we are expecting to open as usual for the new term. Our Leaders and Governors will be monitoring the situation closely and ensuring that we are prepared for whatever happens. I will, of course, keep you posted of any developments throughout the holidays.

What you can do to help us stay open is to ensure that you are sensible about the contacts that you have through the holidays and that you remain vigilant for symptoms of covid within your families. I know that many parents have been using lateral flow tests for themselves and for their children, even though there is no mandated requirement to do so in primary-aged children. I think it would be a sensible precaution for parents to test their children, prior to them returning to school in the New Year, preferably the day before they return or on the morning of the first day of school. Only send your children back if they are free of covid symptoms. If you think they do have symptoms, or if they test positive in the holiday period, please follow the self-isolation rules scrupulously. Our restrictions for the new term are not yet clear; it's not been announced yet whether there will be changes, and we have been subject to local conditions in Croydon which have required additional measures. At present, I am waiting for advice from the Director of Public Health regarding whether these additional Croydon measures will still stand in January; we will have to wait and see what the data tells us.

This term, our school has had cases, but has been relatively fortunate that these have not been significantly high. With your help, we hope this will continue. We are grateful for your support.

Further information can be found at:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Stars of the week:	Writers of the week:	Mathematicians of the week
Zander & Arleen	Alexia	Amelia
Alex & Olive	Ronan	Diana
Aarun & Joseph	Olivia	Catherine
Sara & Alfie	Matilda	Dolcie
Querida & Tiago	Santi	Sophia W
All of you for excellent efforts in the Carol Service	Santi	Kacper

This week's attendance awards are as follows:

Green Class - 98.7 % Attendance

Red Class & Yellow Class - 100% punctuality - Well done to all the classes!

Have a lovely restful Christmas break!

D Mooney

Children's Christmas Mass at St John the Baptist - 5pm Christmas Eve

Covid restrictions prevent having the usual Nativity at Christmas Eve Mass this year at St John the Baptist. However, children are encouraged to participate by wearing their Christmas jumpers or dresses or even their nativity themed costumes (angels, shepherds etc). At the start of mass children will be able to walk into Church behind Canon John before returning to sit with their families. We are looking for 10 readers aged 8-14 and about 10 singers aged 8 plus to be part of a small choir. A short rehearsal for singers and readers will take place at 11am on 23rd December in Church. If your child would like to read or sing please confirm via email to v.segura@btinternet.com or text Veronica on Tel 07803 728868. We look forward to seeing the children at Mass on 24th December!



Artwork by Oli L, Y6, Art Leader



**We wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and
a wonderful New Year
School reopens on Tuesday 4th January 2022**





As part of their Design and Technology topic, Blue Class designed, sewed and decorated Christmas stockings. The results were very pleasing!