

### DIARY DATES

**\*\*ALL DATES ARE PROVISIONAL IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC\*\***

Friday 17th December	School closes for the Christmas holiday
<b>Wednesday 5th January 2022</b>	<b>School reopens for the spring term</b>
Friday 18th February	School closes for half-term
Monday 28th February	School re-opens

*Love to learn, love God, love one another.*



### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES AND THE NATIVITY

The final fortnight of term was very special. The stars in Reception class and Years 1 and 2 retold the Nativity - the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, which we were able to all enjoy together thanks to online video calling. The story was split into three parts, with each class re-telling a section leading to the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Alongside this was an extremely special live outdoor Christmas performance. It was such a warm feeling (even though a little chilly!) to welcome a limited number of parents/carers and wider family members to each of our shows and even though the weather caused a couple of delays, we persevered and managed to stage all three shows. These were our first live shows since lockdown began and we are sure that those who joined us shared in the festive magic.

God Bless and have a wonderful Christmas.

### JOINING OUR RECEPTION CLASS IN 2022

Applications are now open to join the **September 2022 Reception Class intake!**

If you, or anyone you know is thinking about a place for a young superstar to join the brilliant St. Werburgh's family, the deadline for applications is

**15th January 2022.**

To apply, visit:

**<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>**

For further information about the Reception class of our lovely school and to book an after-school tour, please email: **[office@st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-werburghs.staffs.sch.uk)**

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### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUUUUUUU!

We love to celebrate birthdays in school during our in-class, virtual 'Praise and Celebration' on a Friday. Please tune-in your best singing voice and join us in celebrating with the following children who have enjoyed a birthday from Saturday 27th November to Sunday 2nd January.

Happy Birthday: Harry S., Kitty, Kodi M., Frankie T., Alexa, Evie, Poppy, Rupert and Kodie B.



## A LITTLE HELPING HAND WITH MEALS

Many families may be finding things a little tougher at the moment. Whichever year group your child is in, if you think that you may now be eligible for income-based Free School Meals, we would urge you to check and, if so, submit an application. This **also** applies to children who currently receive a lunch due to being in Reception, or Years 1 and 2.

Those children in receipt of income-based Free School Meals are also eligible for additional benefits in school.

To find out more, or to apply, please visit:

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals)



## JOB VACANCY

Here in our lovely school, we are currently advertising for a talented practitioner to join our team as a one-to-one Learning Support Assistant.

The post will commence in January 2022 (for two terms) and will be five mornings and three afternoons, with the possibility of joining us as a lunchtime supervisor too.

If you are a qualified learning support assistant/ teaching assistant and have experience working within an educational setting and wish to find out more, visit:

[www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk/joining-our-team/](http://www.tmpf.staffs.sch.uk/joining-our-team/)

**Love to learn, love God, love one another.**

We now have a text messaging service for parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who live in Staffordshire.

Get advice from our Public Health nurses (Health Visitors and School Nurses).

**TEXT: 07520 615722**



Feeding and nutrition



Child development



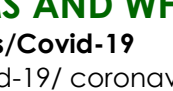
Parenting advice and support



Emotional health and wellbeing



Behaviour difficulties



Family health

We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. There will only be the same between them and you. If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from all mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health visitor from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.



## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND WHAT TO DO

### Coronavirus/Covid-19

Below is a list of possible Covid-19/ coronavirus symptoms:

- High temperature (feel hot to touch on the chest or back);
- A new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours – if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste – you've noticed that you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of the symptoms. We have also been advised that the virus could present itself in children as an upset stomach, or headache.

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus: please arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible.

**The person displaying symptoms should stay at home until the results have been returned. Should the result be positive, then it is essential that the infected individual self-isolates as per the government guidelines and does not attend school, or come onto the school site.**

If you are worried about your symptoms, or are unsure what to do, please use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service (<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>). If your child is under 5 years old, call 111 straight away.

**If your child has symptoms and has undertaken a test:**

please do not return to school until results are known and shared with us.

The current governmental guidelines state that children who are close contacts of a positive Covid-19 case no longer need to self-isolate. However, it is recommended (and strongly encouraged) that if they have been a close contact, then they complete a daily Lateral Flow Test and if this is positive, or they develop symptoms, they take a PCR test. Of course, if your child is unwell, please keep them off school until they feel better - even if they have returned a negative result.

Although this may seem a little frustrating, it is essential that we protect the children, your families, the staff and our families. For further (regularly updated) information on the virus, visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## COVID-19 IN SCHOOL

As you know, during the final week of school sadly there were a number of reported positive Covid-19 cases within our school family and we continue to send best wishes to all of the families affected, especially as this impacts on the Christmas plans for some. Indeed, with Christmas soon upon us, we all want to keep our loved ones safe whilst spending time with them. As such, we strongly urge you to be vigilant regarding any symptoms of the virus (details can be found within this newsletter). If your child may have been a close contact of one of our cases - the details of which you received via email - then the recommendation is to complete daily Lateral Flow Tests and should any test return as positive, or your child (or anyone in the household) develop symptoms of the virus, then please arrange a PCR test.

**If your child tests positive for the virus before 23rd December, with symptoms developing within 48 hours of the end of term, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing the school office and [covidsafe@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:covidsafe@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk)**

## OUR FRIENDS IN KENYA

Many of you may remember that a few years ago we were visited by Miss Ainsworth from our sister school, The Valley, to talk to the children about a project in which she was involved to support children in a deprived area of Kenya.

Following this, the children and staff decided to fund-raise and paid the school fees for two children, Morris and Swabrina, to be able to receive an education and a daily meal. During the pandemic, a number of staff continued to help the school whilst things became more challenging.

We were delighted to receive a Christmas card (pictured) from the organisation who support the project in Kididima and we hope to be able to help them as a whole school once again in the new year and provide our children with the opportunity to make a genuine and lasting difference to children's lives in another part of the world.

**Love to learn, love God, love one another.**

## PARKING SAFELY

As we all want to keep everyone safe, please can we ask that when we return, those who drive to school park safely and responsibly and avoid the zig zags which are there to protect children. Please also respect our neighbours when parking your car. We also urge those in cars to only remain near to the school site for the necessary time to drop-off or collect your child as this will then free parking spaces for others. At a time when there is much to think about, let's work together to remove the risk caused by dangerous or inconsiderate parking.

**...love one another.**

## KINGSLEY KINGFISHERS

You will soon be receiving an email questionnaire from our friends at the Kingsley Kingfishers to help them to gather information about their wraparound care. If you were able to share any information with them, it would be gratefully received.

## ADVENT

The final few days before Christmas also mark the final few days of the liturgical season of Advent. Advent is a really important time to pray for peace and love to fill the world.

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." **Matthew 2: 10-11**

**...love God...**





## TIMINGS

Below is a reminder of the timings for each class. Please can we ensure that we follow these timings carefully from January. The start of the school day for each class is stated below.  
**Children need to arrive in school by these times.**

	Car park gate			Front gate	
	Arrive	Collect		Arrive	Collect
Year 1	8.40am	3.20pm	Year 3	8.40am	3.15pm
Year 2	8.45am	3.25pm	Year 4	8.45am	3.20pm
Reception	8.50am	3.15pm	Years 5/6	8.50am	3.25pm

## CHRISTMAS FUN

There have been plenty of Christmas celebrations in our lovely school as we approached the end of term. The Nativity and live outdoor performances from our youngest three classes (mentioned at the start of this newsletter) were wonderful moments to join together as a school family. But, it didn't stop there. We joined as a school via video calling to share a school Christmas Service, led by Rev. Sue and the Worship Council, with each class performing their very own recording of a Christmas Carol, or song from the Nativity.

The whole school also enjoyed a visit from Aladdin and Jasmine! Two performances of a simply fabulous pantomime were held - one for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1; and the second for Key Stage 2. We offer great thanks to your PTA for funding the performances.

We continued our tradition of every child in school having the opportunity to place a bauble on the school Christmas tree. The tree represents the school joining together as a family to celebrate this most special time in the church and in many of our lives.

Of course, we also welcomed an incredibly special visitor who took time out of his preparations for Christmas Eve to visit the classrooms and bring each child a present and to share Christmas joy and love.

At a time of uncertainty across the country, and indeed the world, Christmas showed once again what a magical time it is.

**Merry Christmas!**



## PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

A hugely festive 'thank you' for your support of our PTA Christmas Raffle. Through your generosity in donating prizes and buying tickets, we raised more than £500! That is amazing, thank you!

We also take this opportunity to thank your PTA for their hard work, determination to overcome challenges, and their wonderful dedication over the course of the term. Your PTA have funded gifts for children and even paid for the pantomime to join us in school (oh yes they did!) as a Christmas treat for all of the children.

Thank you again for supporting your PTA and we are sure that you will join us in thanking them for their care, dedication and brilliance.

## THANK YOU

We finish this newsletter by sending the love and thanks of the team and the children for all of your support this term, especially during some of the more tricky periods. Your ongoing support really makes a difference to each of us here in school and it is highly appreciated.

From the staff here at St. Werburgh's C.E. Primary, Mr Eccles, the Trustees, and The Moorlands Primary Federation, we wish you all a very, very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

**'Merry Christmas' and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 5th January.**

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