



St James' Church of England Primary School

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Executive Head Teacher: **Mrs Gina Bailey**

Head of School: **Mrs Casey Cox**

Opening doors to our future.

I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. Revelation 3:8

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Parent Christmas Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We have nearly made it through another challenging term – so we can officially start being excited about Christmas!!! It really has felt like a massive team effort, where we have all worked together to make the Christmas term as fantastic as we possibly could for our children!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at St James' for working their socks off to provide the very best education for the children. The classrooms look amazing with all the children's beautiful work, the progress in the books is fantastic and the behaviour of the children is outstanding! We would also like to thank all of the parents for their continued support of the school and of course the children for just being simply brilliant!

Christmas Reporting of Positive Cases

Even though school finishes on Friday 18th December, we still need to know if any of the children test positive over the Christmas period.

Before Christmas:

- A person can be contagious up to 2 days before they have symptoms.
- If your child develops symptoms over the weekend of the 19th and 20th December 2020 it is important that you book a test.
- If the test is **positive**, please email this information to hos.stjamesharlow@dcvst.org as we will need to inform all members of the bubble, that they will have to self-isolate for 10 days. This will ensure that we are protecting the vulnerable members of our school and wider community.
- For any symptoms **which begin from Monday 21st December onwards**, there will be no need for parents to inform school as it is beyond the 2-day threshold for possible contact tracing at school, instead this will be taken up by the government track and trace system.



Our Core Christian Values: Respect, Responsibility, Community, Friendship, Forgiveness, Courage.

After Christmas:

- If your child tests positive and is required to self-isolate over Wednesday 6th January 2021 and beyond, please email hos.stjamesharlow@dcvst.org from 4th January 2021 onwards, so we can update our records and organise home learning.

Christmas Hampers

We would like to thank Land Sherriff's for their generous donation, to support families with food hampers over the Christmas period and beyond. Their donation has helped provide hampers for over 30 families across Harlow.



Food Vouchers

Families who qualify for Free School Meals, will receive food vouchers for the Christmas period via a company called [Wonde](#). Mrs Nelson has emailed the links out to parents this week. Parents should receive £30 per eligible child. If you have not received the link, please contact the School Office tomorrow on admin.harlow@dcvst.org. We believe this company has been successful in completing this in the past so we are hoping that this will run smoothly.

We have attached a letter from Essex Local Authority which gives parents more information about the Wonde school vouchers – a [copy](#) of this is also on the website.

Christmas Panto

Many thanks to the PTFA for organising the virtual Christmas Panto – we could hear a lot of enjoyment on Friday – nothing brings a smile to our faces more than lots of children shouting “It’s behind you!!!”

Support for Families over Christmas

We have put all the information for support services on the website on the [Learning and Wellbeing page](#).

On there are links to support the online and telephone support being co-ordinated by Mind in West Essex.

We also want to draw your attention to the [Essential Living fund](#), this provides funding for families who need help with paying for heating, electricity, water and food. The link will take you to all the information you need on the website if you want to make an application.



Have a brilliant holiday with your families

We think that’s everything, have an absolutely brilliant Christmas and New Year, we hope you all have a fantastic time with your families – stay safe- and we will see you all bright eyed and bushy tailed on Wednesday 6th January 2021!

Very best wishes,
Gina Bailey
Executive Headteacher

Casey Cox
Head of School



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