



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

20th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 15 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking all of you for your continued support of the school throughout this first term. This has been an extremely long term, but it seems to have raced by. Looking back over the last 15 weeks, once again the St James' family has risen to the challenge of the ever-changing educational landscape as well as the changes that have been brought about by the emergence of the Omicron variant. We do not know exactly what 2022 will bring in terms of the Covid situation but I am certain that we will continue to always put our children at the centre of everything we do.

Our Autumn Term newsletter will be sent out to you this week and I ask that you read it especially for your child's specific Year group. It really does highlight all the fantastic things that go on for our children even with the uncertain and ever-changing landscape.

At Mass yesterday our Advent journey reached its climax with Mary's story. All God asks is that we follow Mary's example and with his help that we too can accept and say 'Yes'. Through our acceptance in our families, our homes, in our community and with our friends, we can build the Kingdom of God and make God's love real and visible. Just like Mary, God gives us the strength and courage to follow her example. Just as Mary heard and listened to God's words for her, we too are asked to open our hearts and lives to God and just as God called and chose Mary, God calls and chooses each of us. Mary gave life to Jesus and shares him with the world. We too are called and asked to follow her faithful example. Let us pray that through our own daily lives, through what we say and do, that we too may bring Jesus into our world.

I have been overwhelmed with our children living out our second value of Faith as demonstrated by last week's donations for the refugee families and donations to The Wellspring and Chelwood Foodbank. The generosity of our families demonstrates the love and care they have for others and as we said to the children, you really have made a huge difference to the lives of those who will benefit, so thank you.

On Wednesday this week, school will finish at 12.15pm and the buses have been booked for this time. Our children will follow a slightly different timetable which will afford them the opportunity of a spiritual reflection on the true meaning of Christmas, an assembly led by their Head of Year, our annual Christmas quiz and finally a Form party.

I hope you have a fantastic holy Christmas and a very happy New Year when it comes. Our staff will also be taking a well-deserved break over Christmas period, spending time with their families, and as such will be unavailable via email, thank you in advance for not contacting them. If you need anything in these final three days, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher