

St Andrew's Major Church in Wales Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 3rd December 2021

Covid update

You may have been aware of a recent increase in Covid cases in our pupils, particularly in Year 3 and Year 6. Although these cases have now begun to subside, I requested that the Local Authority come to school to evaluate our processes and procedures. The audit carried out this week has confirmed that we are doing everything we can in order to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. The report highlighted that our routines are well established and everyone is following the guidance in the school's risk assessment. When some restrictions were officially removed in September, we continued to keep them in place – e.g. contact groups when indoors, adults wearing masks in all communal areas, twice weekly LFTs for all adults and enhanced cleaning throughout the day. The Vale's health and safety officer noted how seriously pupils take hand hygiene and how they follow all the school's expectations so well. With recently updated guidance from Welsh Government following the discovery of the new variant, staff have returned to wearing masks in classrooms. Otherwise, all aspects of our current risk assessment still apply.

One aspect that is no longer in the guidance or in our risk assessment is the 72hr quarantining of items coming into the school. As a result, we will not be quarantining Christmas cards.

Please do continue to be vigilant for any symptoms. I genuinely thank those parents who have shown such a sensible approach and kept children off/used PCR tests where their child/household members have symptoms. Although we did have a rise in cases, it could have been a lot worse and fingers crossed we will continue to see these cases drop. I have been very pleased to see many children return to school this week both healthy and happy and I hope those who are still off are better soon.

Message from the PTA

Christmas raffle tickets will be coming home next week. There are lots of prizes to be won in time for Christmas which have been donated from our local business community and virtual Christmas market stall holders. All the proceeds raised will go towards our fundraising for 'The Great Outdoors', improving the school's outdoor learning areas, purchasing of equipment and fun activities for our pupils.

Our Christmas wreath making workshops were a great success and raised a good amount for the campaign. A big thank you to everyone who got involved, and volunteered to help organise this event. A special thank you to Natalie Briard from Hearts and Flowers for providing a wonderful workshop.

Important concert filming arrangements

We will be filming this on Tuesday. A company is filming and editing so I am afraid if your child is unable to attend school, we will not be able to add them in later. Not all costumes came in today. Please ensure they come in on Monday. Please note the following for the day:

- Nursery – come to school in their costume
- Reception to Year 5 – come to school in uniform – **not** PE/Outdoor kits for Rec/Y3 please
- Year 6 – come to school in jeans/dark leggings and Christmas jumpers (No joggers please)

Due to the use of the hall for the filming, the schedule will be very tight. Y3 to Y6 will therefore have lunch in their classes on Tuesday only. They can have a tuna, cheese or ham baguette or a hot baguette with fish fingers. Alternatively, they can bring a packed lunch. There will be no change for infants who can still have a hot lunch in the hall.

Closure of St Andrew's Road from Westra towards Wenvoe

It has come to my attention that part of St Andrew's Road will be closed next week. This may affect some of our journeys to school so hopefully this advance warning will help you plan ahead. This is for BT works and I understand the proposed road closure is beyond the school to Argae Lane and hopefully will not affect the access to the parking area – however I don't know this for sure. What it will mean is more cars going towards the village or using The Westra. In case of any issues, please do be vigilant with your children at all times.

I have been informed that the school bus will be able to go through the roadworks so there should not be any delays with the bused children getting home.

On the subject of safety, it has been reported to me that there was a near miss on the zebra crossing this week. The driver of a car was watching their own child enter school and as a result almost hit a child who was crossing at the crossing. If you wish to watch your child into school, please park and go with them. Many thanks for your support in keeping everyone safe.

The Big Wrap (Repeated Message)

As in previous years, we would like to continue to support this initiative which is linked to our collections for the Foodbank at Harvest time. This charity provides gifts for children and young people who may otherwise not receive anything. This year, they have asked if we would collect gifts for older children and teens as they usually receive more for younger children. This could include toiletry sets, make-up and nail varnish, jewellery (not for pierced ears), hats, scarves, gloves and socks, colouring books suitable for older children, small puzzles/games, gift cards or chocolate treats. We struggle for space to store the items so we will only be collecting during the week commencing 6th December.

INSET days (Repeated Message)

We have a 6th INSET day for Curriculum Development which will be taking place on Friday 17th June. As a result, we will not have an INSET day on Weds 15th June as this would mean a very disjointed week.

Therefore the INSET days are now confirmed as:

- Tues 4th January 2022
- Weds 5th January 2022
- Monday 25th April 2022
- Friday 17th June 2022
- Fri 22nd July 2022

Upcoming dates

w/c 6th December – Collecting for 'The Big Wrap'

From 6th Dec - Children can bring in Christmas Cards for their class only please. **In terms of health and safety, please do not lick the envelopes!**

7th December – filming for our special Christmas concert!

10th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

15th December – Christmas Dinner – Reception to Year 2

16th December – Christmas Dinner – Year 3 to Year 6

17th December – Last day of term

We are currently in the first week of advent and we lit our first candle in our virtual Worship today. The first candle, also known as the prophecy candle represents hope, the hope we have with the prophecies of the Old Testament and the coming of Jesus Christ. I am sure we all look with hope to the future at these difficult times.

This week, my Headteacher awards for showing compassion go to Fiona and Maia in Blwyddyn 3. Da iawn merched

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,



Gen Hallett
Headteacher



"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)