

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. What a fantastic Autumn term we have had at St Pius! The children and staff have worked extremely hard and your children have made some fantastic progress in their reading, writing and maths. The homework the children have produced this term has been sensational – thank you all for your support with this.

As always, our school social media streams have been filled with wonderful things, showcasing many of the fantastic learning opportunities in each class; trips and visits linked to our Learning Projects; our Stars of the Week; various birthday celebrations; and the many other achievements of the wonderful children of St Pius. I would encourage everyone to have a look at our feed on twitter (@stpiusmbro) and Facebook – they are a great source of information and allow us to strengthen the bond between home and school when it is not possible to have parents on site.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and all the very best for 2022. We look forward to seeing you all again when school reopens to children on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

God bless

N Bennett

Mr Bennett



Reading continues to be a high priority at St. Pius. Mrs Connelly is especially pleased with how much the children are reading at home: thank you for your support with this. Our #24booksofchristmas has been a real success with the children - books have been awarded to children who have shown 'Christmas Spirit.'



School Attendance Matters at St Pius!

Mrs Boyce is working hard to improve our attendance across the whole school and make sure that we achieve our Target of 97% this year. Please see below for class totals:

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| <i>Reception</i> | <i>94.1%</i> |
| <i>Year 1</i> | <i>93.8%</i> |
| <i>Year 2</i> | <i>94.9%</i> |
| <i>Year 3</i> | <i>95.2%</i> |
| <i>Year 4</i> | <i>91.3%</i> |
| <i>Year 5</i> | <i>95.7%</i> |
| <i>Year 6</i> | <i>95%</i> |

At St Pius we passionately believe that to enhance the curriculum your children should benefit through a range of experiences. One such experience is a visit to a theatre, so that is exactly what we did this December and we all travelled to Billingham Forum to see Aladdin.



In November our Year 6 children went on a 3-day residential visit to Robinwood in Cumbria. The children all made the most of the wonderful opportunities and we managed to pack in an impressive 15 exciting and sometimes white-knuckle activities: from archery to caving; flying the trapeze to canoeing. All of the children achieved fantastic things; developed their teamwork skills; and their problem-solving skills. Your St Pius family is very proud of you all.



Thanks to your amazing support and generosity we have been able to do some incredibly fun things this half term in school - from Macmillan to CAUSE Hampers and everything in between.

Thank you!



This term we have worked hard to develop our Sporting diet at St Pius. Sport has given the children the opportunity to be active, which we have seen the many benefits of this term. The children are more active in the learning; their sense of focus and dedication to all of their learning is evident for all to see; their confidence and self-belief are impressive; and their enthusiasm for participating in a competition is infectious. Mr Cara is very pleased with how the children have approached their PE lessons with such enthusiasm. #PiusPEPride.



Uniform

Now that the shops are open we expect the children to be looking super smart in their school uniform and wearing black shoes. Please see our website for detailed school uniform information:

<https://stpiusx.npcat.org.uk/school-uniform/>

Similar to school uniform, it is the expectation that children come into school wearing their PE uniform on the days when they have PE lessons. As the weather becomes more changeable we are allowing the children to wear black joggers/leggings and a plain blue hoodie or sweatshirt.

Staff will contact home should children not be in correct uniform or PE kit. We are very proud of the children at St Pius and believe that their overall appearance should reflect our high standards of behaviour and conduct.

Thank you for your support with this.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Our 'Wrap Around Care' has proved hugely popular this term and we thank all for their co-operation with the booking system. For safeguarding reasons all children arriving at 'Breakfast Club' must be accompanied by an adult to the Chantry Close gate; children must be collected from 'Teatime Club' from the front door of the school by an adult and we ask that you please use the mobile telephone number provided, to let staff know that you are there. Please note: If you would like your child to join either of these clubs we ask that you contact the school office to check for availability and then use the online booking system to book a place for your child – we are unable to take 'walk ins' and we would ask that all bookings for 'Teatime Club' are paid for at the point of making the booking.