

Our Ref: LDW/FIH

12th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of term I would like to express my thanks to the pupils and their families for their support this term. This term has demonstrated that our school community can and is flourishing in delivering our Catholic vision and values. Our pupils and staff have worked extremely hard and that is most definitely paying off in all areas of school life.

End of term arrangements

Please note that we will be finishing the school term Thursday 16th December 2021 at 12.30pm. We have arranged for all buses to arrive at school early so that pupils are able to get home safely. If your child is unable to leave school safely at 12.30pm, could you please let school know so that we can find other suitable alternatives. Please contact your house teams and we will support you in this.

COVID 19 Testing

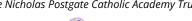
Over the holidays to ensure that all pupils are safe, we will be issuing COVID 19 home testing kits. The government has recommended weekly testing during the break. Upon return to school in the New Year, the government has asked schools to carry out mass testing. Therefore, we will be providing an on-site test centre on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Pupils will be invited in at the allocated time below for testing and return home after the test. All pupils will return to school Wednesday 5th January 2022 as planned as long as they have a negative test.

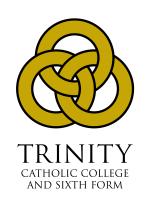
Mass testing Tuesday 4th January 2022

Time	Who	Where	All pupils return home once they have received a test. If you have a positive test you will be contacted the same day and told to book a PCR and self-isolate until you receive the result.
8.30 to 9.30	Year 7	Sports hall	
9.30 to 10.30	Year 8	Sports hall	
10.30 to 11.30	Year 9	Sports hall	
11.30 to 12.30	Year 10	Sports hall	
13.00 to 14.00	Year 11	Sports hall	
14.00 to 15.00	Year 12/13	Sports hall	
All pupils wit	th a negative test can	return to school Wednes	sday 5th January 2022

Following Jesus, building families, fulfilling potential

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Consent

All pupils accessing mass testing will require consent via ARBOR. If you have already consented, you do not need to consent again. If you have not consented but would like to, please access the link below for full guidance.

https://login.arbor.sc/

Masks

The government advice is that all pupils and staff (unless exempt) should wear a mask in communal areas and on school transport to slow the spread of the Omicron variant. We urge pupils to wear masks in school, especially to avoid self isolation. Should your child be identified as a close contact with someone who has the Omicron variant, they will need to take an LFD test for seven days. This will mean missing school and this will affect your festive celebrations over Christmas. We do not want any pupil to miss out on their education or any family celebrations. Therefore, we ask that all parents provide their child with a mask for school and encourage them to wear them in communal areas and on school or public transport.

Spring Half Term Focus

As many of you know, we are working very hard on our culture in school to ensure that our pupils are ready to face the world of work. Over the coming months we will be launching our six new Learning Habits. The Learning Habits have been designed to ensure that teachers can teach and pupils can learn. The first to be launched is Be on time, every time. We have always placed a heavy focus on punctuality but we are going to put an extra drive on this next half term because some pupils are persistently late to school or lessons without valid reason. Therefore, should pupils be late to school or lessons without a suitable reason we will issue an A5 and will be placed in Curriculum Support for the rest of the day.

Headteacher Christmas message

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

As Christmas approaches, there are so many things going on in our lives. Against this hectic backdrop, we take time in our Catholic school to remind ourselves of the real meaning of Christmas. We reflect on the great gift God has given us with the birth of Jesus.

During this advent I would like our community to reflect on living out faith through your:

Head - taking time to quietly reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through prayer.

Heart - demonstrating love and compassion for those who may not have all the blessings you or I have.



Headteacher: Mrs L Dwyer







Hands - supporting those less fortunate by collecting food and gifts for the less fortunate for our annual CAUSE hamper campaign.

I hope you and all of your loved ones have a very blessed Christmas and that 2022 will be filled with grace, love and peace.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dwyer Headteacher