



HOLY SOULS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"a place where we pray together and everyone is important"

Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6BN

Tel: 0121 272 1776

Email: enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk

Website: www.holysoul.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Girling



A St. Teresa of Calcutta
Multi Academy Company
School

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

February has greeted us with lighter evenings and milder days – long may they last! I hope you have taken time with your children to enjoy the change in the season and are all keeping safe and well. (Maybe not dry!)

Lateral Flow Testing

This week staff in school are in line with Government recommendations now taking a twice weekly lateral flow test. For pupils attending school please see the email that was sent out yesterday regarding further information. The start of Lateral Flow Testing for staff in primary schools means there is also the chance, at short notice, of disruption to planned lessons or the need for bubble closures.

PLEASE REMEMBER....

If you or a family member take a test as a result of covid symptoms, which are:

- A high temperature (fever) – hot to touch
- A new continuous cough
- A change to your sense of smell or taste you must self-isolate and stay at home, as a household, until you receive your results.

Please notify school by email on covid@holysoul.bham.sch.uk of a positive test result to protect the safety of others in our school community. This is required for all pupils who test positive if they are attending school or at home following remote learning.

Our grateful and generous virtues can be seen clearly in school as we are most grateful to our cleaning team led by Mr O’Kane for ensuring school is always clean and tidy and we have a safe environment to work and play in.



We're working
towards Artsmark
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Council England

St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi Academy Company

Head Office: Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School | 39 Victoria Road | Birmingham | B27 7XY

Tel: 0121 706 4200 | info@stocmac.org.uk | Company House Number: 11844357



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Birmingham City Council - Public Question and Answer sessions regarding COVID-19 vaccination

We have been asked by Birmingham City Council to share the information below about Question and Answer sessions with parents:

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is our best defence against the virus. The vaccine is highly effective and it is currently being rolled out across Birmingham to priority groups. Throughout February 2021 there will be five online Q&A sessions which will allow the public to ask any questions they may have about the vaccination. On the panel will be the Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, local representatives and Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

It is strongly recommended that people attend the session that is relevant to where they live, as some of the information in the webinar will be localised:

4th February at 6pm-7.30pm. North Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138628992047>

9th February at 6pm-7.30pm. South Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138644995915>

11th February at 6pm-7.30pm. East Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138644995915>

24th February at 6pm-7.30pm. West Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138645314869>

25th February at 6pm-7.30pm. Central Birmingham <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/138645491397>

Half Term

Track and Trace Schools will continue to play an important role in contact tracing for pupils and staff over half term. Where pupils or staff attending the school test positive for Covid 19 during the half term holiday, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (that is after 3pm on Sunday 14th February 2021) school will not be required to take any action. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions as provided by NHS. However, where pupils attending the school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (that is before 3pm on Sunday 14th February), the school is involved as usual in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation.

So please continue to use the confirmed Covid test address at covid@holysoul.bham.sch.uk to advise us of tests taken and results received. This is crucial in keeping everyone safe. Thank you.



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Parents/Carers Mask Wearing

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have been continuing to wear a mask. This is to protect yourselves and to protect others. Thank you.

School closure procedure due to bad weather

If for any reason the school has to close due to adverse weather, a text message and email will be sent to all parents. We will also announce it on Twitter and the school website.

Mental Health Week

My thanks to Miss S Wood for organising and leading on the events held this week. It is so important that we support and take care of each other and know especially at this time it is important to talk about how we are feeling.

Remote Learning

Thank you, again, for your engagement and patience. We have enjoyed your messages of gratitude and encouragement. The switch to Remote Learning can bring a number of frustrations and challenges – especially at this early stage – as well as new opportunities and different ways to learn. As approaches and ways of working change, we will continue to update you.

Please also be aware that planned learning opportunities may have to change, at short notice, i.e. where staff are called away for testing or for isolation reasons. Please also note that teaching staff are available within working hours (9.00am until 4.30pm). We thank you in understanding to only expect communications within these times.

Please see this week's Remote Learning Newsletter for some important updates.

Can we help?

Any parent finding themselves struggling or in great difficulty with housing or finance, please approach us, in confidence. We may not have the answers but we may be able to signpost or help.



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Safeguarding

Mrs Kielstra and Mr Henvey are available to deal with any queries or questions during the school day. Outside of the school day, if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child the Children's Advice and Support Service can be contacted on 0121 3031888 or follow the link https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/info/3/information_for_professionals/38/worried_about_a_child/1 or contact the police on 999.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Miss Reynolds is continuing to work on ensuring all those who are entitled to vouchers will receive them for half-term. I thank her for the time and patience in organising this.

Awards Assembly

We may not have all seen one another but we have much to celebrate! Please do log at 9:00am on Monday 8th February for our Awards Assembly.

Thank you to....

- Acocks Green Village Partnership for their letter of thanks following our contribution to the Village Christmas Lights fund.
- One of our parents for sharing an excellent well-being booklet for our staff to use during this Mental Health Week.
- The staff at the Olivet Christadelphian Care Home in Acocks Green who very generously donated a huge amount of food to be shared against our families in need of support. Danielle, who dropped the food to school, said that the staff at the care home wanted to help in any way they could. They do a fantastic job and we are extremely grateful for their support.
- Our Governing Body who joined us virtually for a meeting this week. This voluntary role is so important in challenging, supporting and shaping the future of our school. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated and committed team.



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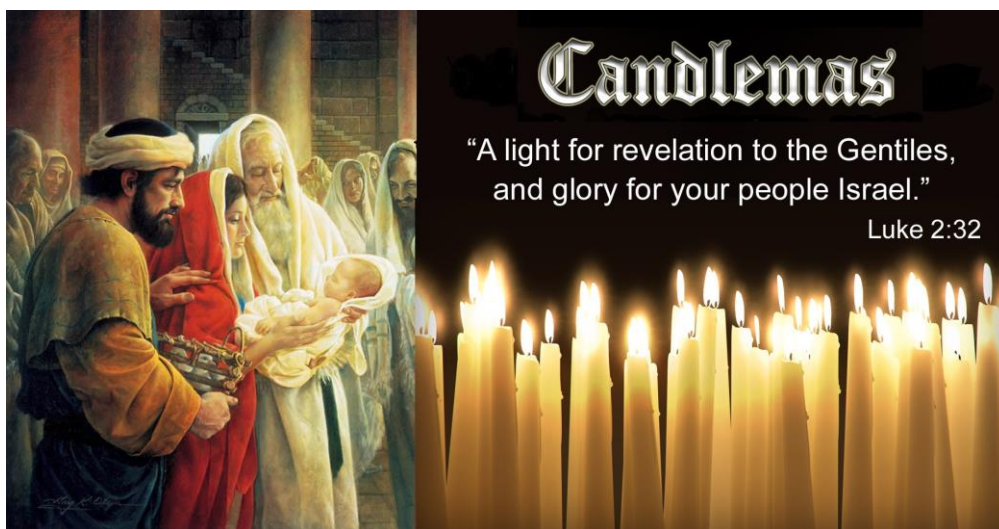
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This week we celebrated the wonderful **Feast of Candlemas**. In Mass on Tuesday Father Jonathan shared that on this feast day, we remember the occasion forty days after Jesus was born when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to 'present him' before God (Luke 2.22-40). St. Luke tells us that, after Mary and Joseph had done all that was necessary under the Law of Moses, two faithful people, Simeon and Anna, gave testimony as to who this child really was. Simeon said that **Jesus would be 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'**. We hope you enjoyed gathering your candles for Father Jonathan to bless and let us pray for the light of Christ to shine brightly in our world.



God bless and take care.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Girling



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