Dear Families

In this last newsletter of this most unusual and challenging year, on behalf of all the staff at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, we wish you a most blessed Christmas and a hopeful New Year. We hope you enjoy the Christmas holidays and look forward to welcoming children and families at the start of the Lent 1 term on the 5th of January 2021. At the current time, after the Government news announcement yesterday, is that Primary Schools will open in the first week of term.

Sent with this letter is also a letter from the CEO of our St Thomas Aquinas Multi-Academy Trust. I also give my most heartfelt thanks and great appreciation for your support, patience and understanding for the school and the changes we have had to make. Thanks to your vigilance in supporting the procedures, staggered times and social distancing at the gates, there have been no positive cases of Covid for staff and children this half term and very few cases of self-isolation due to contact with others outside. I am very pleased that the school average for attendance has risen to 97%, well-above the national averages and thank you so much for this. Everyone has definitely shown their resilience and positivity.

We have missed welcoming parents into school, particularly this Advent, where we have had to film or place online the carols and Nativities. We pray that the New Year will bring back some normality, so that we can resume engagement in school. The Key stage two children have sung their carols on the playground, which we have filmed and will upload onto the school website. For the Nativities, we have filmed this on a dvd, which we will be sending home with the children.

Please note that the 4th of January is a staff training day, instead of the 18th of December. School will finish at the end of day staggered times, as it has been this term on Friday the 18th of December. The children will be having their Christmas parties on the Friday and can come to school in party clothes and not uniform. Please ensure they have their water bottles. The school will be providing the party food for each class. We thank Mrs Lisa White, who for over 25 years has cleaned the school and wish her the very best on her retirement.

As restrictions are not lifted yet and Leicestershire is still in Tier 3, unfortunately the staggered start and end times as this term, as below and the different entrances for dropping and collecting children will stay the same from the 5th of January 2021, until schools are notified about resuming usual practice. (Please see the school website as a reminder.) Children will need to continue wearing their winter uniform, unless it is a PE day, where they will continue to come in PE kits. They need to continue bringing in just their book bags, water bottles and packed lunch if not having school dinners. We wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and New year and again thank you for all your help, kindness and support.
Reception: front entrance Hastings Street 9a.m - 2.50p.m
Year One: Front entrance Hastings Street 8.50a.m - 3p.m
Year Two: KS1 gate Hastings Street: 8.50-3.05p.m
Year Three: Hastings Street 8.40a.m-3.15p.m
Year Four: Junior Gate on Ashby Road: 8.40a.m - 3.15p.m
Year Five: Junior Gate on Ashby Road: 8.50a.m - 3.10p.m
Year Six: Junior gate on Ashby Road: 8.45a.m -3p.m

Thanking You
Miss Jordan and the St Mary’s staff