



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this extremely unusual term, I would like to take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration in how brilliantly everyone in our school community is working together in the face of the immense changes to our lives that the battle against Coronavirus pandemic has caused.

We appreciate how difficult it has been for you as parents to not only cope with your own worries and fears, but to keep your children engaged and focused on learning when bubbles close or when asked to self-isolate. I would like to say a personal thank you for all the support you are giving your children at home, as we all try to ensure they are able to continue with their learning as best as possible.

This way of working is very new to us all and not something we ever expected would happen. The teaching staff have all adapted well to this new way of working and I am so incredibly proud of how staff have coped with their own personal family worries as well as continuing to provide the very best for all of our school family.

As a school we have learned so much during this period but the most important is that the health and wellbeing of our school community is our top priority and comes before everything else. We will continue to focus on this in the new year by continuing to adapt our risk assessment in line with any new guidance.

Celebrations

Throughout this term, we were also involved in a remote visit with Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI). As part of the visit, Senior Leaders were questioned on how SSSJ is managing the return to full education following the extended school closures. The outcome of this visit is detailed on our school website under the about tab and inspection reports.

During this pandemic we have also celebrated the birth of Mrs Ruddy's daughter who arrived safely (and a little earlier than expected!) on the 8th December. I hope you join us in sending a warm welcome to Eve Florence Ruddy. Miss S Saied will continue to teach in Year 2, covering Mrs Ruddy's maternity leave.

Throughout this term the school council have worked extremely hard alongside Mrs Nixon and Miss Ashcroft to provide for those most in need within our community. They have led fundraising for care parcels for the elderly and food parcels for those in need. Thank you again for supporting our school council in their quest to support our community.



Our newspaper club have also raised £99.00 for Emmaus, selling their newspaper to children in school. Thank you to Miss McMenemy and all the children who have had their articles published in this edition. You have covered a wide range of interesting topics and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading them all.

Teaching staff have also played their part in supporting our local community. Instead of our usual secret Santa gifts we decided to buy a gift for both children and parents in Fort Alice with the aim of ensuring all the children have a wonderful Christmas.



We have also enjoyed many different learning experiences all of which are showcased on our school Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/officesssj?lang=en>. Please download Twitter and follow us to keep up to date with the exciting opportunities that are being provided for the children. Let's try to raise our followers to more than 1000! We have also added our Christmas productions videos to our Twitter account too! Sit back and enjoy watching our children showcasing their talents.

Finally, just a reminder that school reopens on Monday 4th January. School will be closed on Friday 12th February for a teacher training day. Therefore the first part of the Spring term will end on Thursday 11th February. Throughout the Christmas break, if you need to contact school linked



SS Simon & Jude
Church of England Primary School

to COVID or any other concerns, please email the office on ssjoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Take care over the Christmas break.

With thanks

Miss K Jones (Principal)

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