

# St Aidan's Newsletter



## November 2021

### Christmas Productions

While we have begun to ease restrictions and invite parents back into school under strict conditions, I feel the logistics of having all parents into school for a Christmas production this year will prove just a step too far—this is the same reason we held parents evening virtually. Although we have not been affected as much as other schools, COVID cases are on the rise and this many parents mixing is a risk not worth taking. Productions this year will be virtual and streamed for parents to watch online.

### Staffing News

Mrs Neill will be leaving us to seek pastures new on Friday 4th December. I thank her for her dedicated service to the school and wish her well in the future.

Mrs Traba has been advised to come out of full class teaching by her midwife from 6th December. She will still work in school with smaller groups but there will be a little bit of a lag in between Miss Carrie returning, which will be covered internally during the cross over time.

We have also welcomed Miss Farrar to the team after Mrs Menzies was released from her contract early due to personal reasons. She is on long term supply, but has settled in very well and I'm impressed with how quickly the children have taken to her.

The Governing Body have begun the process of appointing a permanent Headteacher. They hope to have accomplished this task early in the Spring term.

### One-Way System

Please remember to continue to leave the school via the path and follow the one way system. A few parents had begun to ignore this and leave via the car park. While parents and their children leaving this way should be fairly straight forward, a few of our Year 5 and 6 children who leave on their own had begun to do the same thing, and I don't want them leaving straight onto the road unaccompanied when they leave school, are excited and possibly not paying as

much attention to the traffic as they should be.

### Reminders

**29th November** - Mrs Traba's class are leading us in our Collective Worship—the first week of Advent. Open to parents of Elm class—booking essential.

**3rd December** - Last day to donate food to the Wansbeck Food Bank appeal before their collection for Christmas

Film night - tickets available via school office.

**7th December** - Parishioners Christmas Lunch in school (open to anyone who regular attends Mass at St. Aidan's—COVID permitting—limited places, booking essential.

**9th December**— Sycamores/ Poplars trip to Beamish.

**10th December**— Seedlings/ Saplings trip to Beamish.

**13th December** - Miss Givens' class are leading us in our Collective Worship—the third week of Advent. Open to parents of Poplar class—booking essential.

**15th December** - Children's Christmas Lunch (Children may wear Christmas jumpers etc. this day if they wish—we will not do this on National Christmas Jumper Day as some classes are on a trip and would miss out)

**17th December**—School closes for Christmas holidays.

**4th January** - Teacher Training Day

**5th January** - Children return to school.

### Absences SCHOOL PARKING

Can we please ask that parent/ carers park **SAFELY** and **LEGALLY** at all times. Please be considerate to our neighbours by not blocking their access nor parking on pavements or parking on the double yellow lines.

### Winter Weather

A reminder to please make sure that your child comes to school with suitable outdoor clothing. A warm, waterproof long coat with a hood, not forgetting hats, scarves and gloves all keep out the rain and the cold. Boots or wellies are a great idea with shoes to change into for inside.

In the event of severe weather i.e. Heavy snow or seriously icy conditions and it is necessary to close the school an announcement will be made on BBC Radio Newcastle and posted on Northumberland County Council website.

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk), the school website and the school facebook page.

During the winter weather we also ask parent / carers to take extra care when on school property. As always you and the children are advised to keep to the gritted areas.

### Charity Appeals

Thank you so much for your ongoing support to the Wansbeck Food Bank appeal on 'Canny Fridays'. The donations are mounting up and we will continue to collect on a Friday ahead of the donations being collected on December 10th. The Mini Vinies chose to support this charity and it so important for the children to see the impact of their efforts in supporting a local cause.

Children in Need collections raised over £250—thank you again.

You generosity continues to astound me, even after the challenges we have faced over the last two years.

As always thanks so much for your ongoing support. It's such a privilege to be around your children -as I tell them in assembly, there are 221 reasons to be happy about coming to school each day. They all make St. Aidan's such a special place and are a joy to work with.