



St Ursula's Convent School

The Weekly

Week Ending
17th December 2020
Issue Number 015



Dear Parent / Carers

We come to the end of what has been a long and often difficult term. I want to thank everyone in the school community for pulling together and working so hard to keep everyone safe. In comparison to other schools we have had relatively low positive cases and therefore the disruption to the learning of the pupils has been minimal.



Despite the fact we are living through a pandemic we have tried to keep everything as normal as possible in this advent season. Last week we had Christmas dinner and this week we have been having Advent Liturgies. Thanks go to Mrs Norbury, Miss Cushnahan and all the student chaplaincy team for putting these together.

We were unable to have our usual Carol Service but have recorded one for you to watch. Please follow this link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pZR5OtQ9_dbVAvPqNBj_OYtldaCw93x/view?usp=drive_web

Marie, our chaplain has organised the reverse advent calendar and your generosity with donations has been overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who made donations to these needy causes.

On Christmas jumper day we raised £1397.75 for The Catholic Children's Society and The Mizen Foundation. That is a tremendous achievement and I know the money will be put to good use by these worthy organisations

I am proud of the way the entire community has adapted to our new and difficult normal but it does show that when we work together so much is possible. Thanks again to everyone.

I would also like to thank the many parents who showed understanding of the extremely difficult position we were placed in on Sunday and Monday by being directed to go to remote teaching and then being directed not to.

Let me now take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas. I hope you are able to spend some quality time with your loved ones in a safe manner.

School reopens on January 4th at the normal time, there will as always be a full uniform check so I ask that you send your daughter to school in the correct uniform and fully equipped for her learning.



Have a restful break
Mrs Hamilton
Headteacher



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O ANTIPHONS

17th – 23rd December



As this term comes to a close, I share with you the O Antiphons, which remind us of the wonder of God who came to us on that first Christmas day in Bethlehem. Over this Christmas season, I pray that you will all know the peace and love which Christ brings to each one of us. Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas period.

The O Antiphons are the words recited in the final days of Advent before and after the Magnificat prayer during Vespers (evening prayer). Each one refers to Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, each day highlighting a Messianic title: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Rising Sun, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel. You might recognise them from the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".



O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong, yet gentle, manner. O come to teach us in the way of truth.

O Lord of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

18th December





19th December



O Root of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to delivery us, and do not delay.

20th December



O Key of David, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

21st December



O Radiant Dawn, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who are in darkness and are afraid.

22nd December



O King of All Nations, whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes us all one. O come and save humanity whom you made from clay.

23rd December



O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and our Saviour. O come and save us, Lord our God.

Please follow the link for a message from Archbishop John.
<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/>



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Gingerbread
Single parents, equal families



The other side of Christmas

Christmas is coming very soon and it is a time for a well-earned break and to spend quality time with family and friends (in line with government guidance this year). It can also be particularly challenging for young people who are experiencing difficult times including the death of a loved one, separation, loneliness and/or difficult circumstances. There is support information on the school website under **school life- resilience and wellbeing** and I have also listed some organisations that offer support and advice for young people and their families. This year has been especially challenging for us all so please take care and stay safe.

Wishing you well, Kimberley School Counsellor



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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Public Health England has agreed a six-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist in with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive Covid-19 cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

Public Health England advised that beyond six-days after the final day of teaching schools will not be asked to play a role in contact tracing until the spring term begins on Monday 4th January 2021.

Please be reminded that if your daughter tests positive case for Covid-19 up to and including 23rd December you must contact the school via this email: covid@stursulas.com this email inbox will be monitored daily up to and including the 23rd December 2020.

If we need to inform you that your daughter needs to isolate, the latest we will do this is 23rd December 2020.

Merry Christmas

