



Finchingfield St John the Baptist CofE
Primary Academy
Newsletter Date: 11th December 2020

**We grow healthy bodies, loving hearts and inquisitive minds at
Finchingfield: living 'life in all its fullness' John 10:10**

**Our Christian Values: Reverence Compassion Friendship Peace
Koinonia Endurance**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your support and understanding throughout this term. The Autumn term has been like no other and at present our procedures and restrictions are remaining for the Spring term. As and, hopefully, when the government make changes we will keep you informed.

Schools have been given additional guidance to support contact tracing over the Christmas School Holidays. As you know schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and one way they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the Essex Contact Tracing team. Whilst school is closed over the Christmas period this system will be adapted slightly. Below I have outlined the highlights. Please be aware that we may need to contact you up to 6 days after school finishes on Friday 18th December and ask your children to self-isolate.

Reporting cases/suspected cases of Coronavirus over the Christmas Holidays:

- If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school you **MUST** inform the school (preferably via email on office@finchingfieldacademy.com or please leave a message on the answer machine before 10am) and seek a test for your child. The household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You **MUST** let the school know the result.
- If your child does not display symptoms however tests positive within 48 hours of Friday 18th December you **MUST** inform the school (preferably via email on office@finchingfieldacademy.com or please leave a message on the answer machine before 10am).
- If your child develops symptoms more than 48 hours after the end of term you **MUST** self-isolate and seek a test. If the result is positive you **MUST** use the NHS track and trace service to identify any close contacts. Please inform us if they will not be attending school at the beginning of term as a result.
- If your child requires a COVID-19 test it is recommended to use the testing centres rather than postal tests as currently results are being returned within 24 hours from testing centres.
- If school are notified of a positive case, within 48 hours of the end of term or from someone who displayed symptoms within 48 hours of the end of term and subsequently tested positive, we **WILL** contact you via ParentPay providing the guidance for your child who may need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Our 'Christmas Giving Tree' boxes for Essex Police are still available at each entrance for donations of wrapping paper, tree decorations and unwrapped presents for children aged 3-15 years old.

Next term some PE days are changing Class 1 will have PE on: Wednesdays, Class 2 will have PE on Tuesdays and Fridays and Class 3 will have PE on Thursdays and Fridays.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Miss M Raymond

Christmas 2020 at St John the Baptist Finchingfield

Because of Covid restrictions, we are sadly not able to hold our normal carol services in the church this year. However, we are running a number of activities to help you celebrate Christmas in this very unusual year. Of particular interest might be our online carol services:

- A traditional 9 lessons and carols, going live on Sunday 20th December
- Carols in the Cowshed, filmed at its usual venue of Boydell's Farm, going live on Sunday 27th December

These can be found on our Facebook Page (search for 'The Benefice of Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield & Shalford'), or on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMRERnp3aVcaYnL3LlhyCwQ>

Additionally, St John the Baptist Church in Finchingfield will be open from 12-4pm on Sunday 20th December and on Christmas Eve with a display telling the Christmas story in flowers, and with artwork on display by children from the school.

As part of our festive decorations, we are also inviting families from the parish to produce Christmas-themed painted rocks to form a 'rock snake' starting by the door at the foot of the church tower. The first rocks will be going into place this weekend, so do go and add yours to the chain.

And above all, we at the church wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas, and a hopeful New Year!

Please note: Primary School (Reception) admission applications opened on **Monday 9th November 2020**, for parents/carers to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year starting in September 2021. The national statutory closing date for these applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**. All applications should be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. All parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2021 **must** make an application online not directly to the school.

This week's Proud Cloud: Class 1



Star of the week



House Points

This week's house points across the school:

Ruby: 77
Sapphire: 86
Emerald: 77

House points so far this term:

Ruby: 1334
Sapphire: 1268
Emerald: 1173

Class Champions



Attendance:

This week: 90%
Last half term: 97.2%
School Target: 95%

Key Dates:

Mon 14th Dec – Christmas Church Service
Tues 15th Dec – Christmas Dinner
Tues 15th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Break:
Mon 21st Dec – Fri 1st Jan (Mon 4th Jan – INSET day)