

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

What an absolute joy it was to watch the Early Years perform their nativity this week. It was incredible. The children sang beautifully and ever so confidently. What a lovely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to all the Early Years staff, who prepared the children for such a wonderful nativity.

By now, I'm sure you will have received my letter regarding all the nativities. It is with a really heavy heart that I have had to make this decision. After attending this week's Headteacher's Covid briefing, it was clear that in order to preserve the children's education and attendance and for the safety of the children, their families and the staff, cancelling the performances was the best thing to do.

I know that this will cause a lot of disappointment, we are all saddened by it. We really wanted to make it happen. The children and staff have been working incredibly hard to prepare them. But, we will not let their hard work go to waste. I know that it is not the same as being able to watch a live performance, but the performances will go ahead on the same dates as planned and they will be recorded. I will be sending you the links to the performances in due course. Please accept my deepest apologies. Thank you to all those parents, who do not normally allow their children's images to be shared, for allowing it for this purpose. It really is appreciated.

**Friends of St Winifred's Christmas Raffle**

Thank you to all of you who have already sent in donations for the raffle. The collection boxes in each classroom are beginning to be filled with lots of festive treats! Please find attached information about the Christmas raffle, which will be drawn on the last day of term. The raffle tickets are also attached. If you would prefer to have a paper copy, please pick one up from the office. Remember all proceeds go to the children, it is very much needed and very much appreciated!



**First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Preparation 2021-22:**

**Last Chance:** This year, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Lee will run their First Holy Communion programme here at St Winifred's Catholic Primary School, rather than meeting in the Church. This will take place on Wednesdays or Thursdays (depending on the number who enrol) after school. If your child would like to join the programme, kindly register your interest by contacting the school office by **Monday** at the latest. Once we know how many Holy Communicants we have, we will be in touch regarding application forms, dates and times of classes.



### **Feedback:**

Last week I sent an email asking for feedback from you all. It is almost the end of term and the end of my first term as headteacher of St Winifred's. Thank you to those who have taken the time to respond to the questionnaire, I can already see key themes appearing. If you have not had the chance to, it's not too late. I would really like you to provide me with feedback to two questions.

1. What has been going well?
2. What could be even better?

Please find the proforma with these two questions attached. I would like as many of you to respond as possible. I am very eager to listen to parent/carer voices. You can email it back or if hand it in to the school office. You can even remain anonymous if you prefer. By the end of term, I hope to be able to share the responses I have had with you.



### **After school clubs Spring Term**

A letter was sent this week offering a variety of after school clubs beginning after the Christmas Holidays. The grid on the letter indicates the day it is running and which year group each club is open too. Please do not forget to send your completed selection form back. Further copy attached. **Please note that the Musical Theatre club, originally on Monday, is now Wednesday.**

### **Mini Vinnies Advent Appeal:**

The Mini Vinnies, made up of children from Years 5 and 6, have put out an Advent plea. Mini Vinnies are the junior section of the Catholic organisation of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which exists to help those in need. They want to help people in need during the cold winter months and have come up with the idea of a back to front advent calendar.

They are asking each class to create their own Advent Calendar for a good cause. Rather than opening a calendar door each day and removing the gift, they are requesting that a gift is donated instead. Each class will have a box to collect their donations. The children will collect all the items at the end of term and take them to the Lewisham Donation Hub.



The kinds of things that can be donated include unopened body moisturiser (especially emollient 50), adult and baby shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes (child and adults), perfume and after shave, deodorant (men's and women's), mouthwash, shaving foam, razors, talcum powder. Tinned tomatoes, noodles, UHT milk, pasta, rice, tinned soups, chick peas, cereal, tuna and mackerel (tins), couscous, pasta sauce, Indian sauce, lentils, coconut milk, stock cubes, crisps and treats, orange squash (and similar), flour, breakfast bars, coffee, tea.

### **Reception 2022:**

If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2022 (born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018) or know someone who does, I hope that St Winifred's is your first choice! There are three more open days left. If you would like to book a place on one of the open days, please contact the school office. Please feel free to share this information with prospective parents you may know.

During the School Day		After School
9:15am – 10am	2pm – 2:45pm	4pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December

Applications for Reception Class places for September 2022 can now be made on line. Please follow this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

## School Library Books

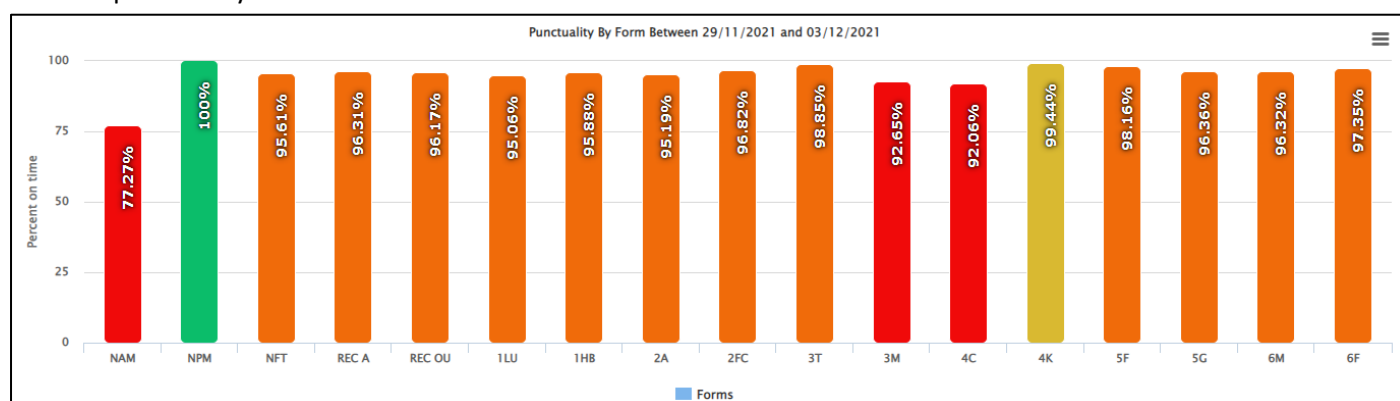
Please could you check whether you have any school library books that need to be returned to the school and bring them back as soon as possible. The school sent many books home over the pandemic and unfortunately not all of them came back, so we really need to keep tabs on the books we have. If your child has borrowed any this term from the main school library, please ask them to drop them back to the library.

Also, can I recommend that you join the public library, if you have not already. It is free and such a great resource to use with the children. Please visit the Lewisham website to find the closest library to you.

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/libraries/branches>

## Punctuality:

Punctuality dipped this week, it has been much better. I know that the weather and the traffic have not helped and some days it really cannot be helped. I thank all of you for trying hard to arrive on time, let's see if we can have high levels of punctuality in the last two weeks of term.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 4K! Well done to 4K on 99.4%! Let's see who can win it next week!

## Covid-19 Guidance

We are in the season of the common cold. Lot of us will develop coughs, which in the past we would not have been worried by. However, due to the pandemic, all new, continuous coughs need to be treated as potential Covid-19. I know that it is incredibly frustrating when a child has to be off, when you're sure it's 'just' a cold.

The guidance is very clear, the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any one in the school develops any of these symptoms, child or adult, they are sent home and must have a PCR. Thank you for your understanding, we know it is not ideal.

## Spare clothing for accidents

Thank you for bringing in your outgrown uniform, but we are very short of aged 6/7 and 8 underwear for minor 'accidents'. Also socks and tights for the wet weather 'accidents'. If you are able to donate any of these items we will be very appreciative.

## Wednesday Word

Please see the link to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

### **Food Bank**

Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received.

### **Parent App:**

**Please, please, please download it!** We re-sent a link to those parents who have not started using it last week. There are **187** app users now, which equates to 250 children. So thank you and welcome to our new users! I still would really like more users. If you have not downloaded the app yet, please do so. I have had really positive feedback from parents who have started using it. You are able to access all the information we hold on your children. Since using the app, so many contact details have been updated. Vital information that we need, if we needed to contact you in an emergency. If you need any help with downloading it, please do not hesitate to ask us.



### **Social Media:**

As you all know, I have created a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account for the school. If you have not started following us, it's not too late to do so! I have been sharing lots of photos of the children in school and on trips and of their displays.

If you would rather your child **not** be included in photos and videos, please return the letter to the school or send a request via the Scholar Pack app. We will then update our information and know which children not to include in our posts.



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St\_winifreds\_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated

Claire Gillespie