



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I write to confirm the arrangements for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, how track and trace will work over the break and Free School Meals arrangements.

## End of term

In agreement with the Governing Body, we will break up at the end of the day on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Thursday will be a full teaching day with the end of the day being at the normal time of 15:30 (15:20 for some due to the staggered end of the day) and the buses will run as normal.

In the current climate we are unable to run celebration assemblies or even a carol service so on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December we will launch a 'Spiritual Day' by releasing a number of Year group assemblies, a virtual carol service and a centralised Christmas message via Firefly. Even though students will not be onsite we still want to celebrate, connect and utilise the day.

## Track and Trace

Unfortunately, Covid still poses a risk and people may contract the virus or be close contacts, and therefore asked to isolate over the Christmas period. If your child tests positive with Covid-19 up until midnight of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December I ask that you let me know via the [covid@stfrancis.cc](mailto:covid@stfrancis.cc) email address. I will then reply with a number of questions to identify close contacts who may be at risk.

Beyond 23<sup>rd</sup> December, due to the number of days that will have lapsed, there would be no need for anyone to isolate based on school contact.

Beyond this date, I do still ask that you contact the email address if there is a confirmed case so that we have an idea of the number of cases before we return in January.

## Free School Meals

The government have recently announced the Covid Winter Grant Scheme which is designed to provide children and families as well as other households with extra support this winter, ensuring that vulnerable households do not go hungry or without essential utilities. This replaces the voucher scheme that was available earlier in the year.

As part of this provision, Walsall Council will make a payment to all those families with children that are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction. Council Tax Reduction is the scheme that provides support towards Council Tax payments for families on a low income.

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For those families Walsall Council hold the bank details for the payment will be made direct, via bank transfer so no action is required.

Any residents who have not already registered their bank details will be written to on the 10 December, asking them to upload their details onto a secure portal so that payments can be made.

All of the necessary information can be found by clicking on the below link

[https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19\\_information/coronavirus\\_covid\\_-\\_19\\_help\\_support\\_for\\_walsall\\_residents](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/covid-19_information/coronavirus_covid_-_19_help_support_for_walsall_residents)

For residents of Staffordshire or Birmingham, please see the council website for their scheme and further advice.

I wish you all a very happy, holy, safe and restful Christmas. Let's pray that 2021 is more fruitful and that we all come back together safely on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

God Bless

Luke Salkeld

Acting Headteacher