******St Blane’s Primary**

**18th December Newsletter 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

We have just about made it to the holidays! Thank you all once again for your continued support to our school during the last two terms. Your children have worked hard, followed all our new procedures and had lots of fun. This month alone has seen our Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, Virtual Panto, Christmas parties (with a special, virtual visit from Santa!) and this morning the children watched the Premier of their Christmas performances. It has been different but still lots of fun! I will email the link for the Christmas performances today to allow you to relax and watch your children in the comfort of your own home. I really look forward to the day when we can welcome you all back into school.

We continue to have a robust risk assessment in place to protect children and staff and will continue with this into the New Year.

During the holidays, if your child develops symptoms/tests positive on or after Tuesday 22nd December, you will not be able to contact the school.  Instead, you will be contacted by the Test & Protect team who will discuss the details with you and ask for the information they need.  It is important if your child tests positive during the holidays and has to self-isolate beyond the school return date of 6th January that you contact the school directly as you would for any other absence. I will continue to monitor emails over the holidays but the Test and Protect team will be able to help if you have any concerns. Hopefully we will not require this service and stay safe.

Moving forward we will see how restrictions go in January and I will keep you up to date with any new developments.

I would like to thank our amazing Parent Council who sourced and prepared our Christmas party bags and selection boxes for the children’s parties today – Their continued support, championing our school is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Sharon Morgan and the team at “Mental Health walk and talk” who donated food items and gifts to support families in our school. It was very much appreciated.

The donations for our December appeal for local foodbanks has been overwhelming. Thank you very much.

Fr Lawlor and the Immaculate Conception have also financially and spiritually supported families in our school over the year and I would like to thank him and the parishioners for their generous, continued support. A final school mass will be live streamed on ChurchTVservices.com at 10am on Tuesday 22nd Dec to close this year.

**School closes** on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 at **2.30pm** and **re-opens** on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at **9.00am**

On behalf of all the staff at St Blane’s, I wish you all a peaceful, joyous Christmas with your families and look forward to a happy, healthy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy your time together. God bless.

Warmest wishes,

Lara McVey

Head Teacher.