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Dear Parents/Carers

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, I want to thank you for all the exceptional support for school and your children this term. Our pupils are wonderful, hardworking and polite. This term has given us much to celebrate and to look forward to. We have had a visit from Ofsted in our Junior school (I will share the report as soon as we get it in January). We have also been informed that our Infant school is set for a new build in the coming years. Please can I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work that all the staff at St Aloysius have carried out. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure the very best school experience for your children. I know that they have thoroughly enjoyed teaching your children this term and appreciate the support that you as parents have given them.

Christmas Performances

Recent weeks have been as busy as ever with our Christmas performances. We hope those who were able to join us for our various Christmas performances enjoyed the events. I am sure you will agree that our pupils made us proud with their singing, speaking and dancing. Thank you for joining us in such large numbers.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you for your support with our Christmas raffle and a huge well done to the lucky winners. We have raised a fantastic £438 to support school funds.

Thank you!

This term we asked for your support to fundraise for Children in Need. Your support was exceptional and we raised over £563.06.

In addition, your generosity this term through our Harvest collection has been incredible. We have been able to send off a number of food hampers to Hebburn Helps and donate a number of treat hampers to St Aloysius SVP for distribution in our local community.

After School Club

The current arrangements for our After School Club will remain in place in January. This means that After School Club continues to operate until 5pm each evening (Monday to Thursday). There is **no** After School Club on a Friday.

Attendance

Thank you for your support ensuring your child attends school daily. Success with our curriculum and your child's confidence and positive attitude when in school, relies on consistent daily attendance. Your child's attendance does become a concern if it falls below 97% and you will be contacted by school if this happens. Occasional absences do impact negatively on your child's education and learning. Please work with us to avoid absences wherever possible.

Staffing Update

In January we will welcome back Mrs Philippa Storey and Mrs Marie Backhurst from their maternity leave. Mrs Storey will support across our Infant and Junior schools and Mrs Backhurst will join the Early Years teaching team.

Keeping children safe online

I know lots of our children will be receiving electronic, internet ready gifts or smart devices at Christmas. Please help them to embrace the opportunities of our internet world by checking what they are doing online, who they are communicating with and how they are communicating with them. There are a variety of fantastic online support resources for parents. I've put a link underneath for the NSPCC which I strongly recommend that you read.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Christmas Mass times

Yesterday, we enjoyed a whole school Mass in church. It was a wonderful sight to see our whole school fill the church, as we take time to prepare for the birth of Jesus this Christmas time. Fr Simon has invited all our families to join him over the Christmas weekend to celebrate this very special time together. If you haven't been to Mass for some time, why not take the opportunity this Christmas to return? I know you will feel most welcome. Mass at St Aloysius will be celebrated as follows:

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm

Christmas Day: 10.00am

Uniform

Whenever we have visitors to school or when we are out in the community, it is always commented on how smart our pupils look. This is only achieved with your help. Can I please remind you that jewellery, including earrings, is not permitted in school and that children should wear black shoes (not trainers) to school.

It is vital that we have the support of all parents to ensure our uniform is consistent across school. Can I politely ask that any earrings are removed before children return to school in January. Thank you for your support.

Finally...

Enjoy your Christmas break. It is a real privilege to work at St Aloysius and to share my days with your amazing children. I look forward to seeing you again on **Monday 9th January**.

Kathryn Fenwick

Executive Headteacher



The staff and pupils of St Aloysius wish you a very Happy Christmas!

