

# Milton St. John's CE Primary School

## Newsletter

Wednesday 16 December

**Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.**

### NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS

#### Christmas Greetings

I'd just like to take this opportunity to say how overwhelmed we have been with the support of Parents/Carers during this difficult term. Thank you for every little thing you have been doing to try and keep us all safe and thank you for your kindness and generosity with the foodbank and toy appeal. We really have been so touched with all of the contributions which means that we are able to pass things on to people who may be struggling this Christmas.

I'd also like to thank Team Milton staff who have taken on extra cleaning duties, playtime and dinner duties and lots of other behind the scene stuff that no one really gets to see in order to try and keep school as safe as possible. The children also deserve a big pat on the back too as they have come back to school and got stuck in with everything and adapted to our new ways of working so well! I am really blessed with the school community we have at Milton and it's an honour to be working in such a wonderful environment.



Lastly, Team Milton would like to wish you all the best this Christmas, we hope it is a happy and healthy one for you all.

#### Panto Actor Visit!



As we were unable to visit a Panto this year, the Panto visited us! On Monday and Tuesday, we were visited by the actor Richard Fletcher who regularly performs at Oldham Coliseum. The children, in their bubbles, thoroughly enjoyed his show and helped get us all into the Christmas spirit!

Today the children are also watching a live 'Cinderella' pantomime. It's so lovely to hear them joining in and enjoying it across the school!

As it is the last Festive Friday this Friday, the children can wear festive clothing/non school dress should you wish. Please bear in mind, those classes that normally have PE will still have it on this day so please make sure they wear suitable footwear.

#### Christmas Shows

We have been busy trying to put together the Christmas compilation for parents in the last week. As we are not experts with editing etc we have had to drop the quality of the videos down to help accessibility. We have also had to split the film in two to assist further, therefore two links will be emailed to parents before the end of the week. Anyway we hope they bring you a little Christmas cheer when you see them!

#### Positive Covid Case

School closes for Christmas on Friday 18 December. We must please ask that, if in the 6 days after school closing, up to and including Thursday 24 December at 3.30pm, your child tests positive for COVID, you inform school on the email account assigned for this. This is to allow us the opportunity to notify Public Health and identify close contacts. The address to notify us is: [positivecovid@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:positivecovid@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk).

If any child tests positive during the Christmas break, or if your family has to isolate and this runs into the new term, you can notify school of the absence and the reason for it by ringing the school office, as usual, on Tuesday 5 January

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when school re-opens (Monday 4 January is an Inset Day). The COVID account will not be monitored over the holidays beyond Thursday 24 December.

### Virtual Tour

Our virtual tour is now on our new website. Feel free to have a look and see what some of the children have been getting up to this term.

### PE kits - reminder

Please can we remind the children and parents that the PE kits worn on PE days should be plain black/blue jogging bottoms/shorts and a plain white T-shirt. The children can also wear a plain tracksuit top. The children are not allowed to wear football shirts and branded clothing please.

### Save The Children

We raised a grand total of £156.00 for this worthy cause on Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to all who donated.

### PTA Funds

Thank you to the PTA who organised the sale of the Christmas decorations. This raised a great total of £198.30.

### UPDATED NEWSLETTER ITEMS

#### Government announcement

Some of you may have seen in the news that schools are able to shut on the 17 December, rather than the 18 as planned. Due to the short notice and the pressure this would place on parents to find childcare, we have decided not to close early. Therefore, school will remain open on the 18 December. The children will then start back on the 5 January as planned following the inset day on the 4 January.

As we really don't want to be contacting parents to tell them that children have to isolate over the Christmas period, it is imperative that should your child be poorly, you must keep your child off and arrange a test. Please do not send your child if they have any Covid 19 symptoms.

#### Snow during Covid restrictions

Given the recent national weather forecasts, we are very aware that snow is coming at some point – possibly before Christmas. Historically, we have not had to close the school very often, as we normally had several staff who were able to walk in and help support others in school. During such occasions classes are usually mixed together in the hall or in classrooms until sufficient staff are able to get in. **However, this year, with Covid and the restricted movement of children/staff around school and between bubbles (classes); this will not be possible and there is a greater possibility that school may have to shut and learning move online because of this.**

It is very important to try and keep the school open, whenever it is possible, and we would like to take this opportunity to explain what will happen if we have snow.

- The school regularly checks the local weather stations and liaises with the Local Authority to gauge whether there is likelihood that there will be a heavy snowfall. Unfortunately, the accuracy of the forecast is not always correct and there could be a heavier snowfall than predicted and this can sometimes catch people out.
- The school has quite a number of staff who live outside the Mossley area. If there is not enough qualified staff available for each of the bubbles (classes) to come into school to open and manage the school safely, **then it cannot open due to health & safety grounds.**
- School also has to consider if the roads are dangerous then we may not receive any food deliveries. The school does not hold a large food reserve; therefore, if the snow is likely to cause disruption over a number of days, the school will not be able to provide a hot meal at lunch time.
- If the school boilers fail to operate, we need to call out technical services and arrange for a qualified engineer to repair the fault. The school would close if we are not able to heat the building. If the heating goes off during the day a judgement would be made about school closure and contacting parents.

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## How you will be kept informed

1. If necessary, a decision to close will be made no later than 8.00am on the morning of closure. We have to rely on the Site Manager and communication between staff about whether they are able to get in before a decision can be made. If we are able to inform you before this time, we will, but we always try our utmost to open and never take this decision lightly. **We will inform you of this decision by text.** Should our text messaging service fail (which can sometimes be the case when a number of schools are using the same system at the same time), the school website will be updated and teachers will inform you on class dojo as soon as they can (please be aware that staff may be trying to get into school at this point).
2. If there is a heavy fall of snow during the day, we will keep parents informed via text should the children need picked up early.

**Text messaging is a vital means in which we contact parents so please could you make sure that we have an up-to-date contact number. If you have recently renewed your mobile this is particularly important!**

### Drop off in a morning

Please be reminded that school drop off times for Reception to Year 6 are between 8.40 – 9am. At 9am the doors are closed. Myself, Mrs Galvin or Mrs Phillips stay at each of the gates in the main school in a morning until the bell goes. If an adult is not around at the gates when your child arrives, this will signal that all of the doors have all been shut for health and safety reasons and that school has started. Obviously please avoid arriving late for school, but any children in the main school arriving after this time will need to be escorted to the main entrance by the adult dropping them off.

In Year 1 and Reception you will need to knock on the classroom doors and wait for an adult please.

## Dates for your Diary

Fri 25-Mon 28 June 2021      Year 6 Kingswood residential trip

### Reception September 2021

Applications for Reception class for September 2021 is open from 1 November 2020 until 15 January 2021.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### The Anthony Seddon Fund

Please see the poster below for details of this drop in session.



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Parish of Mossley

## Christmas 2020

*Saturdays 12th & 19th December*

*10am-2pm @ St George's*

Comfort  
and Joy



*Come and write a prayer tag in memory  
of a loved one to hang on our memorial trees*

*You're invited to contribute food/cash to a collection  
of Christmas food for Mossley Foodbank*

*Opportunity for quiet, prayer, candle-lighting  
and reflection in the calm of the church*

01457 237667



@mossleyparish

[www.mossleyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.mossleyparishchurch.org.uk)



Parish of Mossley

## Christmas 2020

*Saturdays 12th & 19th December*

*Christmas Prayer - 10am-2pm @ St George's*

*Come and leave a tag for a loved one on our memorial trees*

Comfort  
and Joy



*Wednesday 16th December*

*\*Quiet hour - 7.30pm @ St John's: an hour of readings, music and silence*

*Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December*

*We look forward  
to welcoming  
YOU!*

*\*Crib Eucharist, 4pm @ St George's*

*\*Crib Communion, 6pm @ St John's*

*\*Bethlehem Mass, 9pm @ St George's*

*All plans subject  
to change - stay in  
touch for latest info*

*Christmas Day, Friday 25th December*

*\*United Christmas Communion, 11am @ St John's*

01457 237667



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[www.mossleyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.mossleyparishchurch.org.uk)

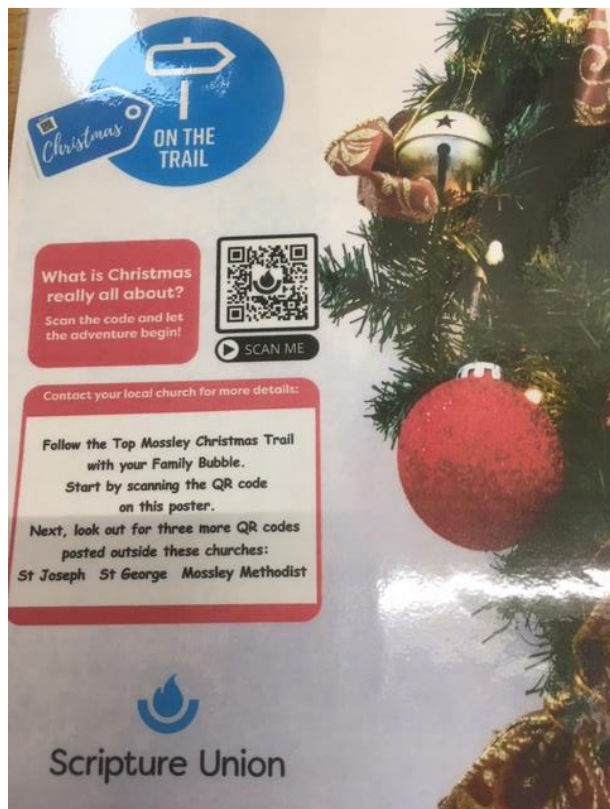
*\*All these services will be livestreamed on Facebook  
(you don't have to be a member to view!)*





## Treasure Hunt around Top Mossley - In Search of Christmas

This is a treasure hunt for children and families around Top Mossley using a series of videos and QR codes. Scan the QR code to start this exciting trail and find details where to find clues. This is a fun trail including walking, exploring and sharing the Christmas story. You can do this as a family which has been organized by Mossley Methodist Church.



## Hallé concert

This year the Hallé will be sharing their annual Christmas concert free for all to watch from Sunday 20 December. Sponsored by Brother, and part of the series presented in association with Siemens Plc, we hope this concert will help to launch Christmas week for families everywhere.

The concert will be released on **Sunday 20 December** on the Hallé's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheHalleOfficial>

Please feel free to share details of this concert far and wide!



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As we are now in Advent season and are counting down to Christmas, may we think about those who may find Christmas difficult this year.