**One family in Christ**

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and good spirits.

As we start our Christmas holidays, we can look back on a term that has been unlike any other we have ever known. The disruption that has been caused by the pandemic - not only to the education of our children but to the daily lives of every single person across the country and throughout the world - has been immense, and the response from communities has needed to be just as immense. The staff and governors of St John’s are very grateful to all parents and carers for the way you have supported our efforts to ‘carry on as (nearly) normal’ throughout this term.

We must congratulate our pupils for all the excellent work they have been completing online this term, in addition to their work in school. Teachers right across the school have been working flat out to provide exciting and focused learning activities through ‘SeeSaw’, our online learning app. Some of our classes have been lucky enough to have full-time access to a school tablet computer through our School iPad Loan scheme, meaning they can support and extend their learning inside and outside the classroom – we aim to roll this programme out to other year groups in the very near future, so watch out for further news

One of the biggest disappointments of this term is that we have not been able to welcome parents and carers into school as much as we would do normally, and this has meant that we have not been able to hold Parent/Carer Evenings. We have tried to do all we can to make up for this, and have done the following:

* at the end of the term you will receive a written report for your child – this will give you information on how well your child is progressing, and what they can do next to improve further

**What do I do if my child develops COVID symptoms in the holidays?**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID **before** 3pm on Sunday 20th December **and** they then test positive for COVID, please inform school by email on the following address: ***covid@stjohnsrc.rochdale.sch.*uk****. I**n your email, please include the following details: *full name of child; child’s year group; date and time that symptoms started; date of test; result of test*

If we are notified of a positive test result in your child’s class, we will contact parents/carers of all children in that class and advise them to isolate their child, as the virus can be infectious for 48 hours before symptoms start.

If your child’s symptoms start **after** 3pm on Sunday 20th December, there is no need to contact school as the class bubbles will not be affected. If your child’s isolation period means they will not be able to start back at school on Tuesday 5th January 2021, please inform school at the beginning of the new term in the usual way.

On behalf of everyone at St John’s, I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas time. God Bless.

Michael Unsworth