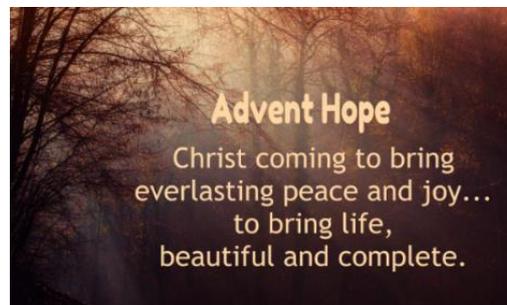




16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the final few days of term I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. It has been a challenging term and there are likely to be challenges to face when we return in January. However, it has been wonderful to see how much our children have benefitted from returning to school this term and how quickly they have adapted to the 'new normal'. Thank you for the many messages of support and your continued understanding and I hope you all stay safe and well.



### What happens if my child has a positive Covid test result during the Christmas holidays?

During the Christmas holidays the school office will be closed, however if your child(ren) develops COVID symptoms and requires a test on either the 19th or 20th December, please notify us straight away by contacting the school office by email at [admin@st-albans.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-albans.hants.sch.uk). Once you have received the test result please inform us if the test is negative or positive (by email as soon as possible).

If a child tests positive following a test on 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> December, we will contact parents of the class involved to advise them about isolation periods that may be required. Isolation for other children and staff may be required if the individual who tests positive had contact with them at school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

If your child tests positive for Covid following symptoms that are noticed from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December onwards, please email so that we are aware of this. (This information will be reviewed when the school reopens for the spring term so you may not receive an immediate reply). The school will not need to notify other members of the school community to isolate in this instance because the child will not have had contact with others at school in the 2 days prior to the onset of their symptoms. You will however need to share information with NHS Track and Trace regarding any contacts your child may have had. Please also remember to follow this guidance:

If someone with symptoms tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should continue to self-isolate until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should all self-isolate for the full 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive.

### Safeguarding children online

We were very pleased to welcome Lee Haywood to school last week for a series of workshops with the children. Navigating the online world can be really tricky at times and having expert advice from Lee is essential in our work to help children know how to keep themselves safe online. You will have received several invites over the past few terms to online advice sessions for parents that are delivered by Lee. We pay for Lee's online safety work with children and parents and this means that these workshops and presentations are then free for parents - please look out for these and I would recommend signing up to find out how you can help your child remain safe online.

### Tree survey

We are blessed with a beautiful site and many well-loved trees that the children and staff are very fond of, and which provide a wonderful habitat to a wide variety of wildlife. The Local Authority have conducted a thorough survey of the trees on our site to check that they are safe and pose no risks to the children as a result of hidden disease or decay. As a result they have identified some trees that will need to be reduced in height and, in some cases, removed completely due to the risk they pose of falling in the future. This work has begun and will continue next term to ensure that our site is as safe as possible.

### Local Authority annual review

Every year the Local Authority conducts a review of our school. Our attached Local Authority Primary Phase Inspector visited the school last week to review our standards and provision and was very impressed with the very high quality of our work, again recommending that we provide support to other schools in areas such as school improvement planning.

### Wrapping up for winter

Please remember to add name labels to all pupil items so that we can avoid items being lost. As it is now much colder, please remember to also add names to hats and scarves. Please remember the following requirements of our uniform policy in relation to winter items:

- Winter hats, gloves and scarves must be plain navy, black or red only.
- Boys and girls wear a navy blue or black plain top coat.

### Applications for Year R September 2020 entry – closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (midnight)

Applications for children to join Year R in September 2021 can be submitted via the Hampshire County Council website at [www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions](http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions). The closing date for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (midnight)**. Parents will be notified of a school place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (typically by email unless you have submitted a paper application instead of doing this online, in which case you will be informed by letter).

Please remember, if you would like to apply under the faith criteria (linked to church attendance), **you must also complete a school 'supplementary information form'** and return to the school by the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. These are available on our website only; if you have difficulty downloading this form, please ask for a copy from the school office. Our admissions policy is also available on our website.

### Message from Rotary Shoebox Appeal

*'It is with deep joy that I am able to report that your school's shoeboxes are now on their way to Moldova, Romania, Albania and Montenegro.*

*Thank you all at St Albans for your remarkable donation of shoeboxes this year. It has been an uplifting experience for us because of the goodwill shown by our local schools and community groups, in such difficult circumstances. On behalf of President Keith and everyone at the Rotary Club of Havant, may I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas'.*

### Christmas Celebrations this week

The children and staff have been very busy this week with our various Christmas activities, including class Christmas parties, wear a 'Christmas Jumper Day' (big thank you for all donations received towards Save the Children) and Christmas lunch. Please look out for some additional communications that will be coming home before the end of the week as part of our Christmas celebrations.

With best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and very happy 2021,

Mrs N Hordell  
Headteacher



*Inspired to make a difference in God's world with excellence and love*

