



5th January 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope that you have all enjoyed the Christmas season and had a chance to have some quality family time.

We welcome to Saint Christina's School two new families who have joined us this term. We hope that their children will settle very happily into our lovely school.

Thank you

Thank you so very much for all the wonderful cards and presents that the staff and I received at the end of term. It was extremely kind and generous of you and we all appreciated your generosity very much.

Welcome

We welcome Ms Chloe Sumpter as our new Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator. She will work in the office alongside Miss Michelle.

Illness

Please ensure that if your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea that the 48-hour rule for children to stay at home is observed (children may return 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea). This is to reduce cross infection, and ensure children are fully rested and recovered before returning to school.

School Uniform

There are some children who do not currently look as smart in their school uniform as they should. For example: Buttons are missing from coats, hem lines are down, shoes are unpolished, hats are not being worn and some children are even wearing a combination of their PE kit with school uniform.

All this downgrades our image as a school as we are encouraging the children to be proud of their appearance. Could I please ask for your support in ensuring your children look smart for school and take pride in their appearance which is of course good training for their future. It is an expectation of the school that children should wear their uniforms with pride and look smart. This means:

- buttons are to be sewn on to parts of uniforms that require them
- blue school gloves and scarves are worn
- hems are sewn up with no dangling threads
- only black leather school shoes are to be worn, which should at all times be polished
- grey coats are worn to school in preference to fleeces (which may be worn underneath coats)
- school hats are worn to school every day
- school bags (with the school crest) to be used
- hair accessories in school colours (royal or navy blue)
- All items of uniform/clothing must be **named**.

Thus all children will come to school wearing the correct uniform, and are responsible for looking after their own uniform and belongings

Class teachers will be inspecting children's uniforms at the start of the new term. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Extra holidays at the start and finish of term

There are increasing requests for holidays taken in term time. I would like to make you aware that I *strongly discourage* families from taking extra add on holidays at the end and beginning of terms. It is disruptive to the children's learning. We 'hit the ground running' at the start of each term and if a child has missed two or three days when he/she returns then the class teacher has to try and make up the time which is not always easy or practical.

I also respectfully ask for your children to arrive in school on time. The doors close at **8.55 am** and if you arrive after this time then you need to sign in your child as late using the electronic system outside the school office. I am accountable for the school's registers and they have to be made available on request to inspectors who will query repeated absences or lateness.

Year 6 Entrance Exams

Our thoughts and prayers are with the children who are currently sitting their entrance exams soon. I must congratulate them on the hard work they have put into preparing for them. The Year 6 girls sat two full days of mock exams – one at the end of last term, and the other before the start of term on Tuesday. We have already heard some very pleasing results from pupils who sat exams last term. We will publish the full list of results when they become available later this term.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you during the course of the term. I intend to have an Information Evening this term about developments in the life of the school. Further details will follow shortly.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Finlayson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jenny Finlayson
Headteacher