



Dear parents and carers,

My last letter of 2020 is an opportunity for me to reflect on the joys, challenges and opportunities of the last twelve months. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your truly outstanding support over the past year. Through our collaboration, we can now look back on an autumn term of real success where we have been blessed to maintain consistency for our children. There is no doubt that for everyone, this past year has presented difficulties we have not faced before; yet through it all our children have shown adaptability, resilience and have brought such joy to our school, they should be congratulated for all they have done. Our amazing staff continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to outwork our mission and shared purpose and I am in awe of their dedication and skill. My thanks too to our Trust and Governing body who give up their time to help us navigate the challenges we face with wisdom and good humour.

Christmas events

- Raffle – Thank you again for all your generous donations and support. We raised an incredible **£420** to buy new books for our library!
- Christmas Jumper day – The children looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers and we raised **£187** for Save the Children. Thank you.
- Santa Visit - **£187** was raised for the Rugby Rokeby Lions to support their work within our local community.

- Nativity – Our classes have worked independently to put together a video for you to enjoy. To view, you need to complete the form sent out asking for a valid email address which is registered with YouTube (google account), you will then be sent a private link. You must sign in to YouTube using your registered email. Please could we ask that parents do not share the video with anyone else or post any of the recording onto social media sites. If you have completed this, and have not been able to view the performance, please let us know.

Communication over the Holiday

We hope you all have a lovely and safe Christmas. We of course hope not, but in the event of any children testing positive for COVID over the Christmas period, please could you let us know. The office email will be monitored (om@stgabrielscofeacademy.org) so we can advise others as required.

We do not need to be informed of other household members testing positive unless it is towards the end of the holidays and the whole family is self-isolating.

As I look to Christmas, I am particularly drawn to the word 'Emmanuel' - God with us. Through the trials of the past months, I am in no doubt we have had 'God with us'; and as we head into a new year with great hope, we can be confident that God will be with us whatever we face. Take a moment to watch this wonderful, fun [Christmas story](#) performed by children in New Zealand. I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas filled with love and a very Happy New Year.

'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:23

Yours sincerely,



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