



## Newsletter No 12

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 2 December 2016

*Happy 1st week of Advent!*



Busy! Busy! Busy! This is the first week of Advent and our preparations for Christmas are in full swing. We will keep you informed of arrangements (and requests!) so please read the newsletter. The children and staff are all working very hard to make Advent a very special time at Holy Cross School and we are all looking forward to sharing these events with you.

'It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!'



A very big thank you to the PTA who have worked so hard not only for organising today's fayre but for being so enthusiastic and willing to organise and support school events. We are so lucky to have such a proactive PTA so if you can spare any time to support them in their work, please speak to them. I can assure you that your offer of help will be very gratefully received.

Say yes!  
Be a PTA  
VOLUNTEER

Also please remember when you are doing your shopping online that you can raise money for the school at the same time! This is what you need to do:

1. Sign up - go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hccspta> and click on the button to sign up.
2. Shop - from the easyfundraising website, search for the retailer you'd like to shop with and click through to the retailer to make your purchase. This tells the retailer you came from easyfundraising. The price is exactly the same as if you'd visited the retailer directly. No cost, no catch! Please be assured that using the easyfundraising website will not cost you a penny.

There are no catches or hidden charges and Holy Cross Catholic Primary School PTA benefit from any donations you make once registered.

Thank you for your support.



**Mass:** Year 4 will lead our Mass in school on Thursday 8 December, all welcome.

### Letters emailed to parents this week:

**Years 1,2,3 and 4:** After school dance club

**Whole school:** Adverse weather conditions

**Please contact office if you have not received a copy**





### Romeo and Juliet

As seen on national breakfast television - our production of Romeo and Juliet will take place on **Monday 5 December** in the school hall. The production will commence at 2.30pm. All welcome; thank you.



### Year 3 Trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

On **Tuesday 6 December**, Year 3 is going on a trip to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. This is in relation to their topic of 'Ancient Egyptians'.



### Zumba Club - EYFS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3

Letters were sent home with children this week. If your child would like to join the Zumba Club please complete and return forms no later than **Thursday 8 December 2016**. Please note that there are limited places so it is a first come first served basis. Again please note **NO late orders** after this date will be accepted. Thank you for your cooperation.



### Swimming

Thursday 8 December will be the last swimming session for Year 3; until we return to school in January. Thank you.

### HSBC Bank

A member of the HSBC Bank will visit our school on **Monday 12 December**. We try to encourage our KS2 children to open and be responsible for their own bank account and manage their money.



### School Choir

Our school choir will be singing at the following events:

Monday 12 December at 1.30pm, OAP Parish Christmas Lunch at the Church Hall.

Wednesday 14 December, 1.30pm at The Oaks (residential home).

Saturday 17 December at 9.45am, House of Fraser in Sutton Coldfield - parents are welcome to watch.

These are lovely opportunities for the children to perform to a variety of audiences and show the rewards of their hard work. I look forward to a high participation at all these events.



### Christmas Dinner for Children

On Tuesday 13 December, we will be having our Christmas lunch in school. Every child is invited to take part, so if your child does not usually have a school meal, they are more than welcome to have one on that day. A letter has been sent home with children; if you require a copy please contact the school office. If your child has sandwiches the deadline for ordering a dinner is **Tuesday 6 December**. **Please note that due to the ordering of food, late payments will not be accepted.** If your child is in KS1 and normally has sandwiches you will need to order a child's meal but no payment is required due to the universal free school meal entitlement. **This will be a non-school uniform day. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on that day to get into the Christmas spirit.**



### KS1 Christmas Production - The Hoity Toity Fairy

There will be two performances: ***Tuesday 13 December*** with refreshments served from 2.15pm and the performance starting at 2.30pm.

Also, on ***Wednesday 14 December*** - refreshments served at 9.00am and the performance starting at 9.15am. The children (and staff!) have been practising really hard. We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances.



### PTA Christmas Disco

This will be held on ***Thursday 15 December from 3.20pm to 4.30pm***. If you are available to help please contact the school office. Thank you for your support. **This day will be a non-uniform day. £2.00 entrance to the disco per child and a maximum £3.00 spending money in a separate purse please.**



### After-School Dance Club Year 1,2,3 and 4

We will be holding an after school dance club for Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 run by an outside provider called Jacqui Betts, who has over 12 years experience teaching dance. The club will cover a variety of ballet, tap and jazz. A letter has been emailed home please contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.



### No Music Lessons

There will be no music lessons on Friday 16 December. Thank you.



### Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols KS2 at Church

This will be held in Church on ***Monday 19 December*** at 6.00pm. Please ensure your KS2 child is at church at 5.30pm - 5.45pm; thank you. We hope to see a full church on this occasion; please come along to support our children.



### The Wizard of Oz-Whole School

We have arranged for 'The Working Theatre Company' to visit the school on Tuesday 20 December 2016 to perform Wizard of Oz to all the children. A voluntary donation of **£3.50** is now required to cover the cost of the Pantomime. Please login to your Parent Pay account and select this trip; deadline for payment is **Wednesday 14 December 2016.**



### Toy Day

On ***Thursday 22 December*** children can bring a toy into school. Please do not send your child with an expensive toy as the school will not accept responsibility if this gets broken. **The children need to wear full school uniform for this day.**



### Year 1 Trip to Asda

On **Monday 9 January** Year 1 are going on a trip to Asda, Minworth. This is in relation to their topic of 'Healthy Eating'. A voluntary donation of **£2.00** is now required. Please login to your Parent Pay account and select this trip; deadline for payment is **Monday 12 December 2016.**



### Year 6 Trip to St Chad's Cathedral

On ***Tuesday 10 January***, Year 6 is going on a trip to St Chad's Cathedral. Deadline for payment is ***Monday 12 December*** this is made payable via Parentpay. A letter was emailed to parents on 8 November; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy.



### Reception Intake - September 2017

In October 2016, the local authority wrote to parents/carers of children who are on roll at a community or private nursery advising them of how to apply for a Reception Class place for September 2017. To view a copy of the Parents' Information Booklet go online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) by **4 December 2016**. The Local Authority will accept applications until the national closing date of ***15 January 2017***. Thank you.



### Supplementary Forms

Supplementary Forms available now from school office for children who wish to start our Early Years Class in September 2017. These forms need to be signed by Fr Neil; please see him about this when you go to Mass. ***The deadline for these to be returned to the school office is Friday 20 January 2017. Please note forms received after this date will not be accepted.***



### Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance.

Did you know...? Government legislation states that a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil". An attendance figure of 90% equates to missing half a day every week that means four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.

*Parents should also be aware that referrals to the school nurse will be considered for those children with an attendance rate of below 95% due to health related absences.*



This week the Attendance Award was won by Year3 with 99.26%!

**The Punctuality Award for the week:** EYFS, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6.

**Recommendations:** EYFS: Chase B, Tresa B Year 1: Jak McS, Cormac K Year 2: Harry K Year 3: Alicia I, Olivia F, Olivia W Year 4: Owen P, Charlotte L Year 5: Luke S, Rosena J, Amy M Year 6: Hannah E, Michael McG.

**Lunchtime Award:** Sam K (Y5).

**Class of the week:** Year 6.

**Sports Award:** Christie W (Y3), Charlie S (Y5).



### Virtues and Values

As you know the Archdiocese of Birmingham has introduced a focus on Gospel Virtues and Values. This half term we are concentrating on being 'Intentional and Prophetic'. As a school community we are looking for opportunities in our own lives where we show the virtues. Please discuss this with your children at home; highlighting times when you experience or show these virtues. This will also be the focus for our 'Angel of the Week' awards for this half term.



### Angel of the Week

Each week we will be recognising those children who we feel have made that extra special effort and show the virtues in their daily life.

This week's winners are: **Miss Cotter:** Qai'Rou M (Y6) **Miss Stewart:** Georgia H **Miss Stevens:** Nathaniel C **Mr Mayor:** Scarlett T **Miss Crowley & Miss Lovelock:** Milly B (Y6) Erin Partridge (Y3) **Mr Rowlands:** Kyle W **Miss Cross:** Trinity H, Thomas T.



**Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week:**

Ruth H, Niall O'D (Y1), Jack R (Y5).

### Dates for your diary - December 2017

Tuesday 6 December	All day	Year 3 trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Wednesday 7 December	4.00pm-6.00pm	Indoor Athletics
Friday 9 December	8.00pm-9.30pm	An Advent & Christmas celebration with Jo Boyce & Friends at Holy Cross & St Francis Church
Monday 12 December	1.00pm	HSBC in school
Monday 12 December	1.30pm	Choir singing at Parish Christmas dinner

Tuesday 13 December	12.00pm	Christmas dinner for children and staff non-school uniform - children can wear Christmas jumpers
Tuesday 13 December	2.15pm refreshments 2.30pm start	EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production
Wednesday 14 December	9.00am refreshments start 9.15am	EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production
Wednesday 14 December	1.30pm-2.30pm	The Choir singing at The Oaks Residential Home
Thursday 15 December	3.20pm-4.30pm	PTA Christmas Disco
Saturday 17 December	9.45am-10.15am	Choir singing at The House of Fraser
Monday 19 December	6.00pm-7.00pm	Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols KS2 at Church
Tuesday 20 December	1.45pm-3.30pm	Pantomime company in school - Wizard of Oz
Thursday 22 December	All Day	Toy Day - children to wear full school uniform
<b>Dates for your diary - January 2017</b>		
Monday 9 January	8.50am	Return to school
Monday 9 January	Morning	Year 1 trip to Asda
Tuesday 10 January	All Day	Year 6 trip to St Chad's Cathedral
Wednesday 18 January	7.30pm	PTA Meeting
Wednesday 25 January	9.00am-12.00pm	EYFS - School nurse to carry out hearing test
Tuesday 31 January	9.00am	Academy Photographers in school - groups, teams.
Monday 6 February	3.20pm-4.30pm	PTA Spring disco
Thursday 9 February	7.00pm	Confirmation - Year 6 children
Wednesday 15 February	All Day	Year 6 trip to Birmingham Back to Back Houses
Friday 17 February	3.20pm	Break up for half term
Monday 27 February	8.50am	Return to school

**\*Other dates available on website**

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely  
**T Cotter**  
Miss T Cotter  
Principal



**Advent Prayer**

Heavenly Father,  
Bless us with your Holy Spirit  
in this time of Advent,  
as we prepare for the coming of Christ our Lord.  
May we grow in Hope, Peace, Love and Joy  
in our hearts, in our school and in our families;  
so that we may move towards the Eternal Life you promise.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*This Advent prayer was written by some of our Mini Vinnies: Madeline and Rosena (Y5) and Erin LF, Oliver and Johnny (Y4) - under the guidance of Fr Neill!!*



**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  
Multi-Academy Company  
Bishop Walsh Catholic School | Holy Cross Catholic Primary School | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School | St Nicholas Catholic Primary School



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