



Newsletter No 12

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 30 November 2018



On Sunday we begin the season of Advent when we officially start the journey to Christmas. We started our season this morning with our beautiful Advent service. Advent is the time when we really reflect and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As you can imagine, we are all very busy preparing for the many different events to make this a very special time for all our Holy Cross family. Please try to support these events and help us to show the children the real meaning and magic of Christmas.

Please continue to remember Fr Neil in your prayers - thank you.



Mass: Year 6 will lead our Mass in School on *Thursday 6 December*. Everyone is welcome.



Fortnite-Advice from the School Nursing Team

Many of you may be aware of the risks and concerns around children playing the online game Fortnite, which has a 12 rating but is played by much younger children. We have been made aware of an emerging trend, where people are playing strip Fortnite using webcams. The rule is that when you achieve a "kill" you have to strip off, potentially adding an additional risk from children being exposed to and/or sharing indecent images whilst playing the game. We urge you to please monitor your children's use of online games and adhere to the age restrictions. Thank you.



Inset Days - School closed to children

Please note the next two inset days are *Monday 25 February 2019* and *Monday 3 June 2019*.

Letters sent to parents this week:

EYFS and KS1: Christmas Performance - costumes required

Please contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.





Year 6 visit to Tudor Grange Academy, Kingshurst.

Arrangements have now been made to take the children in Year 6 on a visit to unique World War 1 replica trench, at the Tudor Grange Academy, Kingshurst on **Tuesday 4 December**. Thank you again to our PTA for subsidising the cost of this trip.

CHEESE!



School Photographs

School photographs have been sent home with children. Please return orders to school no later than **9.00am on Wednesday 5 December**. Any late orders parents will be required to send direct to 'Academy Photographers.' Thank you.



Christmas Fayre on Thursday 6 December from 3.20pm to 5.20pm

To support our Christmas Fayre please note that **Thursday 6 December** will be a **non-uniform day** and each child is asked to bring in **£1.00 donation**. Thank you once again for your support, it is appreciated. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Fayre, please come along and support!



Home-Made Cakes

If you would like to do some baking please send in home-made cakes on **Thursday 6 December**. Thank you.



Volunteers

Calling any volunteers! Please come and help out at our Christmas Fayre, we would be extremely grateful; even half an hour to help with washing up would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact the school office and leave your details. Thank you for your support.



EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production - Whoops-a-Daisy Angel

For the Christmas performance, the children will need to wear a costume depending on their role. They will need to bring in their costume in a bag with their name clearly labelled by **Thursday 6 December 2018**. We will then keep the costumes in school on their pegs. A letter has been emailed to all parents giving further information. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



There will be two performances: **Tuesday 11 December** with refreshments served from 2.15pm with the performance starting at 2.30pm. **Parents will be allowed in school at 2.15pm.**

Also, on **Wednesday 12 December** - refreshments served at 9.00am with the performance starting at 9.15am. **Parents will be allowed in school at 9.00am.** The children (and staff!) have been practising really hard. We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances. Thank you.



School Choir

Our school choir will be singing at the following events:

Tuesday 4 December at 10.30am - Parish Pensioners' Christmas Lunch at the Church Hall.

Thursday 6 December 4.00pm to 4.30pm at Christmas School Fayre

Saturday 15 December at 9.45am - House of Fraser in Sutton Coldfield - parents are welcome to watch.

Thursday 20 December, 1.30pm - The Oaks (residential home).

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 Lunch for Children and Staff

On **Tuesday 11 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. If this is the case, please log into Your Parent Pay account and order your child's lunch. The cost of the meal is £2.15; the deadline for payment is **Monday 3 December**. **Please note that late payments will not be accepted due to ordering of food.**

If your child is in KS1 and normally has sandwiches you will need to order a child's meal. Please place your order via the school office. No payment is required due to the universal free school meal entitlement. Deadline to order a meal is **Monday 3 December**. Thank you.

This will be a non-school uniform day. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on that day to get into the Christmas spirit.



KS2 Carol Service

The KS2 Carol Service will be held in the school hall. The first event will be on:

Friday 14 December - refreshments at 9.00am and the service will start at 9.15am.

This will be repeated on:

Monday 17 December - refreshments at 2.15pm and the service will start at 2.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. Thank you.



Christmas Cinema Trip

EYFS and KS1 Monday 17 December (Meeting at Empire Cinema) *(wearing full school uniform)*



Year 3 and Year 4 Tuesday 18 December *(As this is the PTA Christmas Disco children can wear their own clothes.)* (Travelling from school, arrive at school 8.30am-8.40am)



Year 5 and Year 6 Wednesday 19 December (Travelling from school, arrive at school 8.30am-8.40am) *(wearing full school uniform)*



Thanks to our generous PTA there will be no cost to parents for this trip! I am sure that you will join us in our gratitude for the amazing work they do for our children.

A letter has been sent home to parents giving further details; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy. Please complete and return the proforma to the class teacher no later than **Wednesday 5 December**.



PTA Christmas Disco. This day will be a non-uniform day.

This will be held on **Tuesday 18 December from 3.20pm to 4.30pm**. If you are available to help please contact the school office. Thank you for your support.

Please pay £2.00 entrance fee via your Parent Pay account. The deadline for payment is Monday 10 December. Any payments after this date will not be accepted.

Children can bring in a maximum £3.00 spending money in a purse on Tuesday 18 December.

If you will be collecting your child/children before the end of the disco; please inform the school office before 12.00pm on **Tuesday 18 December**. Thank you. Also, if your child/children will not be going to Kids' Club after the disco please let Kids' Club know as soon as possible. Thank you.



Toy and Class Christmas Party Day

On **Friday 21 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 for any loss or damage to any items brought into school.



This will also be the day the children will be having Christmas class parties. Parents are asked for a **£1 donation** per child towards party food and prizes. Please send this into the class teacher in an envelope with your child's name and labelled "Party". Deadline for payment **is Monday 17 December**. Thank you for your support. **The children need to wear full school uniform for this day.**



Advent Accumulation Project

We are going to do something a little bit different this Advent! We are choosing to reverse things this Advent; instead of opening a door to chocolate, we are going to give instead.

We are going to make our own 3D Advent Calendar out of shoe boxes- each shoe box will be given a number from 1 - 24 with daily Advent reflections displayed inside to lead us in our journey to Christmas Day.

We would like your help to fill these shoe boxes with donations of unused toiletries, sealed packets of dry, non-perishable food within their sell by date, new socks and/or new underwear. Our Rights Respecting Team, Mini Vinnies and our Chaplaincy Team will then work together to choose a local charity to whom the good will be donated.

Your child can bring in items throughout the season of Advent and they will be given the opportunity to place their items in the shoe boxes. We are aiming for all shoe boxes to be filled! Please help us in this cause!



Reception Intake - September 2019

In October 2018, 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 2019. To view a copy of the Parents' Information Booklet go online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. The Local Authority will accept applications until the national closing date of **15 January 2019**. Thank you.



Supplementary Forms

Supplementary Forms available now from school office for children who wish to start our Early Years Class in September 2019. 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 15 January 2019**.



Year 4 visit to Aston Hall

Arrangements have now been made to take the children in Year 4 on a visit to Aston Hall on **Tuesday 29 January 2019**. A voluntary donation of £13.00 is now required to cover the cost of transport, workshop and insurance. Payment for this trip is via Parent Pay; deadline for payment is **Monday 10 December**. A letter has been sent home to all Year 4 parents; if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Year 6 Trip to Ghamkol Sharif Mosque

Arrangements have now been made to take all children in Year 6 on a visit to the Ghamkol Sharif Mosque in Small Heath and Islamic Exhibition Centre on **Tuesday 22 January**. This is to support the RE Curriculum and to promote good citizenship and community cohesion. The visit includes a tour of the mosque and provides the children with the opportunity to learn more about the Muslim faith.

As we believe that the understanding of other faiths is so important and the experiences that the children will be involved in are so beneficial the Parish has again agreed to subsidise the cost of this trip this year. We are very grateful for their generosity. Therefore, a small voluntary contribution of **£3.00** is now required to cover the cost of the donations to both the Mosque and the Exhibition Centre. **Due to the small amount please send payment in cash or cheque made payable to 'St John Paul II Multi Academy' by Monday 10 December. In an envelope marked 'Mosque Visit'**. A letter has been sent home if you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Attendance - Our school strives for 100% attendance.

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: Year 5 with 98.3% Well done!



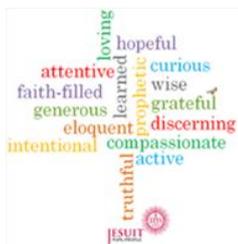
The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5!



Recommendations:

EYFS: Amelie M-B, Kaiden P-W **Year 1:** Ellie G, Rachel J **Year 2:** Caitlin McG, Chase B **Year 3:** Maria J, Reuben R, Daniel W **Year 4:** Lily H, Kieron McC **Year 5:** Francesca L, Fraser C **Year 6:** Enya B **Mrs Hope:** Jay M (Y2), Aidan J (Y2).

Lunchtime Award: Johnny G (Y6).



Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Faith-Filled and Hopeful'. 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: **Mr Hunt:** Julia G **Mr Rowlands:** Martha W **Miss Stevens:** Georgia H

Miss Stevens: Henry H **Miss Lovelock:** Daniel S **Mr Mayor:** Eliza S **Miss Cross:** Cassie G **Mrs Hope:** Ollie L (Y2).



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

Ferdinand A (EYFS), Ruth H, Niall O'D (Y3),

Dates for Diary - December 2018

Tuesday 4 December	All day	Year 6 trip to Tudor Grange - Trench Experience
Tuesday 4 December	10.30am	Choir to sing at Parishioners' Christmas Lunch
Thursday 6 December	3.30pm to 5.30pm	PTA Christmas Fayre Non-school uniform £1 donation
Tuesday 11 December	4.00pm to 6.00pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Multi skills at Bishop Vesey
Tuesday 11 December	2.15pm refreshments 2.30pm start	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'
Tuesday 11 December	12.00pm	Christmas Lunch for staff and children non-school uniform wear Christmas jumper day!
Wednesday 12 December	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'
Friday 14 December	9.00am refreshments 9.15am start	KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Saturday 15 December	9.45am	The choir singing at The House of Fraser
Monday 17 December	9.00am to 12.00pm	EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 to Sutton Empire to watch 'The Grinch'
Monday 17 December	2.00pm refreshments 2.15pm start	KS2 Christmas Carol Service
Tuesday 18 December	9.00am to 12.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 to Sutton Empire to watch 'Nativity'
Tuesday 18 December	3.20pm to 4.30pm	PTA Christmas disco
Wednesday 19 December	9.00am to 12.00pm	Year 5 and Year 6 to Sutton Empire to watch 'Nutcracker Four Realms'
Thursday 20 December	1.30pm to 3.00pm	The choir singing at The Oaks Residential Home
Friday 21 December	3.20pm	Break up for Christmas holidays
Dates for Diary - January 2019		
Tuesday 22 January 2019	All day	Year 6 Trip to Ghamkol Sharif Mosque
Tuesday 29 January 2019	All day	Year 4 Trip to Aston Hall

**Other dates available on website*

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



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.



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