

**Newsletter No 7**

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 4 November 2016



**Shakespeare Production**

A HUGE well done to everyone involved in our school's performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Old Rep theatre last night; it was an incredible performance and I was so proud when so many people commented on our excellent production of this much loved play. We really do have very talented actors at Holy Cross School! A very big thank you to Mr Hunt and Miss Cross for directing such an innovative and exciting performance and also to Mrs Cutler's daughter, Becky, for working with the children as they prepared for their roles. It really was an amazing evening.

You may have seen our children on BBC Breakfast News this morning during a report about children having the opportunity to experience live theatre; if you missed it, please view on Twitter.

The production of Romeo and Juliet will be shown in the school hall at a later date; we will notify parents when a date has been set.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the school Mass on Thursday; we welcome every opportunity of home, school and parish meeting together. It is also important that we have positive relationships with our neighbours and local community and poor Fr Neil received a few complaints on Thursday from local residents regarding parking. I urge everyone to show consideration and respect when parking in residential areas to allow residents clear access to their properties. I thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.



**Kindness Week (7-11 November)**

Next week we are celebrating National Kindness Week where throughout the week we will be focusing on ways that we can demonstrate kindness to others in our daily lives. We will be completing activities across the curriculum to support this including a whole school homework project. Please discuss with your child ways to demonstrate kindness at home and how this is our way of living our mission statement.



**Mass:** Year 4 will lead our Mass in school on Thursday 10 November.

**Letters emailed to parents this week:**

**All of KS2:** Gaelic Football after school club

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



**MACMILLAN.**  
CANCER SUPPORT

**Macmillan Fund Raising**

Thank you to everyone who bought cakes on Monday - we managed to raise £34.50!



### Dinner Money

The deadline for dinner money is **Friday 11 November**. The amount due is **£83.85**, please log onto your ParentPay account to make payment. If you have credit please deduct this amount from amount due. Any queries please contact the school office. Thank you.



### Open Day Tuesday 8 November

We are having two open sessions for prospective parents who have children due to start in the Early Years Reception class in September 2017. These will be on Tuesday 8 November 9.15am - 10.15am and 2.30pm - 3.20pm. If you know of any Catholic families who are in this position please let them know. We are looking forward to meeting you all.



### 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.*



### Poppy Appeal

From Monday 7 November Year 6 will be selling poppies and merchandise: friendship bracelet £1.00, slap rulers £1.00, wristbands 50p, reflectors 50p, LED torch £1.00 and a donation for a poppy.

Please send money with your child to support this fantastic charity. Thank you.



### PTA Meeting

Please note that the annual AGM PTA meeting on Wednesday 9 November has been rescheduled. It will now be held on Wednesday 23 November. Please make every effort to attend. The PTA work so hard and do a fantastic job supporting the school and would love to welcome new faces. Thank you.



### First Holy Communion Meeting

This will be held on **Thursday 10 November at 6.00pm in Church**. *Parent Meetings are an essential part of Sacramental preparation and it is expected that all children will have a parent attending. Thank you for your support. Any parents, who are unable to attend, must contact Father Neil if they wish their child to receive the Sacrament.*



### Takeover day Friday 11 November

Next Friday we are being taken over by Year 6! Takeover Day is a national initiative to help young people deepen their understanding of roles and responsibilities. Year 6 will be taking over all the adult jobs in the school; yes, including mine!!

It should be a very interesting day so we thank you all in advance for your cooperation and patience in making this day a success.



### After School Gaelic Football - KS2

This club will run on Friday 11, 18, 25 November and 9 December; the cost is £12.00. Please make payment through your Parentpay account. There are limited places available and the deadline for payment is Wednesday 9 November.

A member of the HSBC Bank will be in school on **Monday 14 November**. We try to encourage our KS2 children to open and be responsible for their own bank account and manage their money.

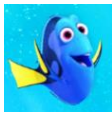


**INSPIRE WORKSHOPS** were introduced to offer parents (or other family members) the opportunity to come into school and work with their own child, helping them to learn and gain ideas and support for helping them at home.

These workshops always offer practical activities - things for parents and children to do together and hopefully are an enjoyable experience for children and adults alike! You (and your children) commented on how good it was to spend time working together - they liked having mom/dad all to themselves!

#### **Inspire Workshop for Year 1 and Year 2**

This will be held on **Tuesday 15 November 9am to 10am** - one person per family is welcome to come along to support; join in and see the children working.



#### **PTA Film Night - Finding Dory**

The PTA is holding a film night after school on **Wednesday 16 November**. This will start at 3.20pm and finish at **5.30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to enjoy some Christmas shopping, knowing their children are being entertained. Popcorn and drinks are included in the price of £2.50 per child. Forms were sent home with children on Wednesday; if you have not received a copy please contact the school office. Forms need to be returned no later than **Monday 14 November**. Thank you.



#### **Children in Need 2016**

This year's theme is 'Spots' and therefore we are asking children to come to school on **Friday 18 November** dressed in spots, spots on their faces, spots in their hair or anything spotty that you can think of; and **pay £1** to support children and young people who are in need. Thank you for your support.



#### **Traditional Christmas Wreaths**

An order form was sent home with children today for traditional Christmas wreaths, £6.00. If you would like to order one please return slip to the school office no later than **Friday 18 November**. These will be available to collect at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you.



#### **Year 2 Trip to Birmingham Thinktank.**

On **Monday 21 November**, Year 2 are going on a trip to the Birmingham Thinktank. This is in relation to their Science topic of 'Animals and Humans'. Deadline for payment is **Monday 14 November** this is made payable via Parentpay. A letter was emailed to parents on 10 October; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy.

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

On **Tuesday 6 December**, Year 3 are going on a trip to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. This is in relation to their topic of 'Ancient Egyptians'. Deadline for payment is **Monday 21 November** this is made payable via Parentpay. A letter was emailed to parents on 6 October; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy.



### Woodwind Lessons

If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 and would like to start woodwind lessons please contact the office for further details. Thank you.



### Reception Intake - September 2017

In October 2016, the local authority will write 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.



### 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 Year 3 with 99.26%!

Please see below attendance for each class and school overall last half term:

EYFS	97.02%
Year 1	98.84%
Year 2	95.51%
Year 3	97.98%
Year 4	97.58%
Year 5	99.14%
Year 6	97.47%
Overall	97.66%

**The Punctuality Award for the week:** We had no late arrivals this week fantastic!

**Recommendations:** EYFS: Bethany McK, Connor T **Year 1:** Iris A, Ella B **Year 2:** Connor McC, Liam O'T  
**Year 3:** Ella W, Caitlin L **Year 4:** Frank W, Maria L **Year 5:** Jack R, Marcus P-W **Year 6:** Nhea R, Qai'Rou M,  
 Matilda C, Charlie H, Alex H.  
**Lunchtime Award:** Olivia H (Y3).  
**Class of the week:** Year 3.  
**Sports Award:** Joseph M (Y2) Niamh C (Y2).



### 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 Stewart:** Kaya G **Miss Stevens:** Sophia J **Mr Hunt:** Ella P **Mr Mayor:** Sian J **Mr Rowlands:** Whole class **Miss Cross:** Alex H (Y6) Matilda C (Y6) Jacob H (EYFS) .



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week:  
 Harry W (Y1), Phoebe F (Y2), Darcie W (Y3).

### Dates for your diary - November 2016

Monday 7 November - Friday 11 November	All week	Kindness Week
Tuesday 8 November	9.15am-10.15am 2.30pm-3.20pm	Open day sessions for prospective parents for EYFS September 2017
Tuesday 8 November	4.00pm-6.00pm	Multi Skills Sports
<b>Wednesday 9 November</b>	<b>7.30pm-8.30pm</b>	<b>PTA Meeting -Cancelled</b>
Thursday 10 November	6.00pm-7.00pm	First Holy Communion meeting Year 3 parents in Church
Friday 11 November	All day	Takeover Day (Please note change of day)
Monday 14 November	1.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 15 November	9.00am-10.00am	Year 1 and Year 2 Inspire Workshop
Wednesday 16 November	3.20pm-5.00pm	PTA Film Night
Friday 18 November	All day	Children in Need Day - theme this year will be 'Spots'
Sunday 20 November	10.30am-11.30am	Mass of Commitment for Year 3
Monday 21 November	All day	Year 2 trip to Thinktank Science Museum
Tuesday 22 November	9.15am-10.00am	Year 3 Assembly
<b>Wednesday 23 November</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>PTA Meeting - Please note new date</b>
Monday 28 November	1.00pm	HSBC in school
Tuesday 29 November		Academy Photographers Families, siblings & individuals
Wednesday 30 November	All day	Non school uniform day - wear blue for St Andrew's Day

### Dates for your diary - December 2017

Friday 2 December	3.20pm-5.20pm	PTA Christmas Fayre
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

**\*Other dates available on website**

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

*T Cotter*

Miss T Cotter  
Principal

### Hold my Hand in Weakness

Lord God, you are my strength.

Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly.

With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about.

Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life.

Amen.



**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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