

Newsletter No 11

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 25 November 2016



As you know, we were subject to a Section 8 Ofsted inspection on Tuesday 22 November. Mr Bellworthy recognised the many positive areas to Holy Cross and the quality provision and care we provide for our children. The staff were very touched by the support of parents and how many of you made a point of taking time to speak to the inspector about your children's experiences at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School. It proves what a family community we are; thank you.



On Sunday we begin the season of Advent when we officially start the journey to Christmas. It 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.



Mass of Commitment

Thank you to everyone who attended The Mass of Commitment on Sunday 20 November. Those parents who did not attend but do wish their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, **must** speak to Fr Neil to discuss the matter. Thank you.



Mass: Year 3 will lead our Mass in Church on Thursday 1 December, all welcome.

Letters emailed to parents this week:

Year 1: Trip to Asda

Whole school: Wizard of Oz Pantomime

Please contact office if you have not received a copy



Online Safety

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Online Safety- It has come to our attention this week that some of our children are using the app 'Musical.ly'. I just want to inform you that you must be 18 years or older to register with this app and have to be older than 13 to use it. Please ensure you closely monitor what your children do online- communication is key. Please follow this link to see the legal requirements for this app.

<https://thecybersafetylady.com.au/2016/03/musical-ly-not-for-kids/>



Football Match

Last week, the football team played in the BCSSA 9-a-side cup against Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School. They battled back in a thrilling 2nd half to come from 4-0 down to 4-3. Sadly despite lots of pressure we were unable to score that equalising goal. However we were extremely proud of their resilience and desire to get back into the match. Football training will continue as normal and their next match will be in the Spring term.



No Training

Please note that due to the Christmas Fayre, there will be no football or Gaelic football training on **Friday 2 December**. Thank you.



Year 3 - Class Assembly

This week Year 3 amazed us with their knowledge and understanding of the story of the ancient Egyptians. We listened to their retelling of the discovery of Tutankhamun and how he was mummified. Everyone loved The Mummy Song. It was great to see a familiar story retold so creatively. Year 3 really made their parents and teachers proud. Well done children!

HSBC Bank

A member of the HSBC Bank will visit our school on **Monday 28 November**. We try to encourage our KS2 children to open and be responsible for their own bank account and manage their money.



School Photographer

The photographer will be in school on the morning of **Tuesday 29 November** to take both individual and family photographs. There will also be a before school session where there is an opportunity for family photographs with siblings who do not attend Holy Cross School. Parents wishing for these types of photograph please arrive at school for **8:15am prompt**.



St Andrew's Day

On **Wednesday 30 November** we will be celebrating St Andrew's Day. This will be a non-uniform day and children are asked to wear **'blue'** clothes. Thank you for your support.



Irish Dance Club

For the next half term we are hoping to run an after school Irish Dancing club. An interest letter has been sent home today with children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, giving further information. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Thank you.



Google Team

On Friday 2 December the Google Team will be visiting our school to work with KS2 children. The team will take our children on a 'Virtual Google Expedition.' This will be a fantastic learning experience for our children. For further information please see: <https://www.google.co.uk/edu/expeditions>



Christmas Fayre on Friday 2 December from 3.20pm to 5.20pm

Please put this important date in your diary.

To support our Christmas Fayre please note that next Friday will be non-uniform day and each child is asked to bring in the following:

Yule logs from KS1 and Mince pies or homemade cakes from KS2.

Thank you once again for your support, it is appreciated.



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.



We are also looking for new and interesting stalls. Tables are £10.00 to rent. If you are interested in running a stall please leave your contact details at the school office. Thank you.



Christmas Raffle Tickets

Tickets have been sent home today with the children, there are some fantastic prizes to be won! The books and money should be returned by **Thursday 1 December**. Please return any unsold books. Thank you for your support.



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'.



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.



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 was sent home with children on Tuesday; 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.



The Wizard of Oz

We have arranged for 'The Working Theatre Company' to visit the school on Tuesday 20 December 2016 to perform Wizard of Oz. 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**.

ASDA

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 are 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 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 Year 3 with 99.26%!

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

Recommendations: EYFS: Jimmy W, Molly F **Year 1:** Alfie J, Tommy M **Year 2:** Olivia A, whole class

Year 3: Darcie W, Jake M-B **Year 4:** Sam W, Daisy C **Year 5:** Regine W, Isobel H **Year 6:** Jacob D, Jake W.

Lunchtime Award: Cillian K (Y4).

Class of the week: Year 1.



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:** Tabitha S **Miss Stevens:** Reuben R **Mr Hunt:** Mia B, Olivia W (Y3) **Mr Mayor:** Christie W **Miss Crowley & Miss Lovelock:** Ryan K (Y3) **Mr Rowlands:** Amy M **Miss Cross:** Jack McI, Jake W.



Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week:
Daniel S (Y2), Isla H (Y3), Ethan L, James M, Charlotte L (Y4), Charlie B-H (Y5).

Dates for your diary - November 2016		
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	All day	Non school uniform - KS1 Yule logs, KS2 mince pies or homemade cakes
Friday 2 December	All day	Google Team in school to work with KS2
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 - children to wear full school uniform
Dates for your diary - January 2017		
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**

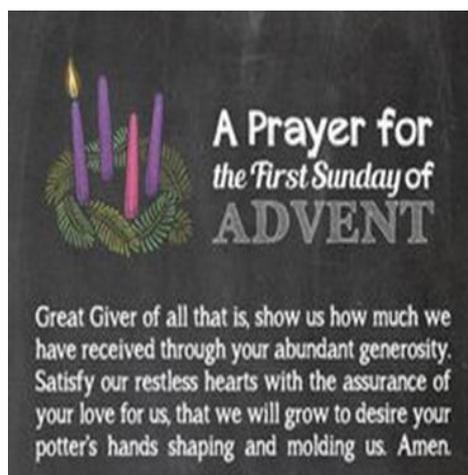
Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

T Cotter

Miss T Cotter

Principal



ST. JOHN PAUL II
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