



**Newsletter No 12**

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 1 December 2017



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. We were delighted to welcome the Vice Principal and four members of the Chaplaincy team from St Nicholas Primary School; who were very impressed with our singing! 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.



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, however, it is becoming increasingly challenging to organise and run events due to the lack of volunteers. I plead with all parents to consider if any time could be given to support them in their work; if so please speak to them. I can assure you that your offer of help will be very gratefully received.



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 5 will lead our Mass in *Church on Thursday 7 December*. Everyone is welcome.

### Mass at Church

As this will be our first visit this year, I am reminding all parents about routines when attending Mass at Church:

- Children should be taken straight to Church (and not school). Kids' Club children will walk down with staff.
- Due to adult ratios, other children may not join this group; they must be taken directly to Church.
- Staff will arrive at Church between 8.40am and 8.50am.
- Parents are expected to stay and supervise their children and ensure they behave appropriately until staff arrive and take over responsibility. For safeguarding reasons, ***children must not be dropped off and left at Church without an adult.***

We are grateful for any additional adult volunteers who are prepared to walk back to school with the children.

I thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.



### RE Questionnaire

Thank you for completing this questionnaire on Parents' Evening and for the very positive responses (see attached). We are very proud of our Catholic ethos, which we believe and you have agreed, permeates through all areas of school life. Some of you did say that you were not sure where to find information regarding the RE Curriculum. The long term plan can be found on the website by following this link <http://www.holycross-sch.net/gallery/?pid=7&catid=10>. We regularly tweet different areas of the curriculum so please ensure you are following us on Twitter!



### Letters emailed to parents this week:

**EYFS and KS1:** Items of clothing required for the Christmas Production

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



### End of the School Day

Polite reminder; if your child is going home with an adult who is not on your contact list, please send a letter into the Class Teacher. For safeguarding reasons, children will only be released to adults on the contact list. Thank you.



### Mass of Commitment for Years 3 and 6

Thank you to everyone who attended The Mass of Commitment on Sunday 26 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.



### Girls' Football Team

Last Thursday, the girls' football team took part a competition against a variety of schools from across Sutton. The girls' won their first match, winning the derby match against St Joseph's 1-0. We then lost to Mere Green, but managed to draw against Coppice and Little Sutton. They finished in overall 3rd place in their group and have now qualified for the next tournament as well. They clearly used the lessons from meeting the England team as they worked well together and fiercely fought in every match. As a school, we are very proud of the girls.



### School Choir

Our school choir will be singing at the following events:

Saturday 16 December at 9.45am - House of Fraser in Sutton Coldfield - parents are welcome to watch.

Tuesday 19 December at 10.30am - Parish Pensioner's Christmas Lunch at the Church Hall.

Thursday 21 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.



### Mothers, Daughters and Mathematical Mindset Workshop- Monday 4 December

We are looking forward to seeing lots of Mothers and Daughters on Monday.



### Vocation Day - Year 6

On **Thursday 7 December** Year 6 will be taking part in 'Vocation Day.' A letter has been sent home with children giving more details. Please contact the school office if you require a copy. Thank you.



### School Photographs

School photographs have been sent home with children. Please return orders to school no later than **9.00am on Thursday 7 December**. Any late orders parents will be required to send direct to 'Academy Photographers.' Thank you.



### Eye Test

On **Friday 8 December** the school nurse will be in school carrying out eye test for all our EYFS children.



### 9-a-side Football Match (away) vs St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Kings Norton

We have a football match booked for **Friday 8 December** against St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School. This is part of the Catholic Sports Tournament. The match will be held at **Kings Norton Boys School**. The team will travel by mini bus to and from Kings Norton Boys School. We aim to leave school at 2.15pm travel over to Kings Norton Boys School Northfield Rd, Birmingham B30 1DY; ready for a 3.00pm kick off. We aim to return to Holy Cross for approximately 4.45pm. Thank you.



### EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production – Follow The Star

There will be two performances: **Tuesday 12 December** with refreshments served from 2.15pm and the performance starting at 2.30pm. **Parents will be allowed in school at 2.15pm.**

Also, on **Wednesday 13 December** – refreshments served at 9.00am and 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.



### PTA Christmas Disco

This will be held on **Thursday 14 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.**



### KS2 Carol Service

This year the KS2 carol service will be held in the school hall. The first event will be on: **Friday 15 December** refreshments at 9.00am and the carols will start at 9.15am.

This will be repeated on:

**Monday 18 December** refreshments at **2.15pm** and the carols will start at **2.30pm**. (Please note change of time.)

All parents are welcome to come along to join in our carol service. Thank you.



### Christmas Trip to watch Paddington 2

**EYFS and KS1 = Monday 18 December (Meeting at Empire Cinema)**

**KS2 - Wednesday 20 December (Travelling from school)**

We are all going on a trip to Empire Cinema, Sutton Coldfield. Deadline for payment is **Thursday 7 December** this is made payable via Parent Pay. A letter was emailed to parents giving further details; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy.



### Christmas Dinner for Children and Staff

On **Tuesday 19 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 **Monday 11 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.** A letter has been sent home with children who bring in packed lunch from home. Please contact the school office if you have not received a copy. Thank you.

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

On **Tuesday 9 January**, Year 6 is going on a trip to St Chad's Cathedral. Deadline for payment is **Tuesday 12 December** this is made payable via Parentpay. A letter has been emailed to parents; please contact the school office if you have not received a copy.



## THREE FAITHS FORUM



### Year 4 Trip to West Bromwich Football Ground

The 'Three Faiths Forum' (3FF), is Europe's leading, and the UK's largest Interfaith Organisation. For over 20 years, they have continued to work and build understanding and lasting relationships between people of all faiths and beliefs. By taking part in this 'School Linking Project' we aim to prepare our children to be able to interact positively with anyone they meet with the skills and attitudes to be able to cultivate meaningful relationships. As part of the project we have been linked with Niksham Primary School.

The 'School Linking Project' will consist of three 'Link Days' with Niksham Primary School and the first will be on **Monday 15 January 2018** with Year 4 going on a trip to West Bromwich Football Ground. A letter has been sent home with all year 4 children. If you require a copy please contact the school office. Please complete and return the proforma to the School office no later than **Friday 15 December 2017**.



**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 3 with 100% Well done!**



**The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6!**



### Recommendations

**Recommendations: EYFS:** Hughie O'D, Nylah B **Year 1:** Molly F, Georgia H **Year 2:** Ellie M-B, Daniel W  
**Year 3:** Ella P, Myles O'D **Year 4:** Harry M, Olivia H **Year 5:** Malaika W, Owen P **Year 6:** Keane S, Eva D.



**Class of the Week:** Year 2.

**Lunchtime Award:** Jake M-B (Y4) .



### Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being '**Learned and Wise**'. 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:** Drew B-H **Miss Stevens:** Marian A **Mr Hunt:** Alex S  
**Mr Mayor:** Heloise C **Miss Lovelock/Mrs Howes:** Finbarr McG **Mr Rowlands:** Isobel W **Miss Cross:** Madeline L, Uday P.





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

Ruth H, Niall O'D (Y2), Jack R (Y6).



Dates for Diary - December 2017		
Monday 4 December	2.00pm-3.15pm	Mothers, Daughters and Mathematical Mindset Workshop
Tuesday 5 December	All day	Year 2 Trip to Thinktank Science Museum
Friday 8 December	9.00am-12.00pm	EYFS children having eye test
Monday 11 December		HSBC in school
Tuesday 12 December	2.15pm refreshments Starts 2.30pm	EYFS/KS1 Christmas performance
Thursday 12 December	4.00pm-5.30pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Multi-Skill Competition
Tuesday 12 December	All day	Year 3 Trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Wednesday 13 December	9.00am refreshments Starts 9.15am	EYFS/KS1 Christmas performance
Thursday 14 December	3.20pm-4.30pm	PTA Christmas disco
Thursday 14 December	4.00pm-5.30pm	Girls football match at Sutton College
Friday 15 December	9.00am Refreshments start 9.15am -10.00am	KS2 Carol Service in school hall
Saturday 16 December	9.45am-10.15am	School choir singing at House of Fraser
Monday 18 December	2.15pm refreshments start 2.30pm-3.15pm	KS2 Carol Service in school hall
Monday 18 December	9.00am-11.30am	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Trip to Empire Cinema to see 'Paddington 2'
Tuesday 19 December	10.30am-11.30am	School choir to sing at The Parish Hall for OAPs
Tuesday 19 December	12.00pm-1.00pm	Children and staff Christmas dinner - non-school uniform day children to wear Christmas jumpers
Wednesday 20 December	9.00am-11.30am	KS2 Christmas Trip to Empire Cinema to see 'Paddington 2'
Thursday 21 December	11.00am-11.30am	High Tea with Miss Cotter and Mrs Hope
Friday 22 December	All day	Toy Day - children must wear full school uniform
Dates for Diary - January 2018		
Monday 8 January		School reopens
Tuesday 9 January	All day	Year 6 Trip to St Chad's Cathedral
Monday 15 January	All day	Year 4 Trip to West Bromwich Football Ground

*\*Other dates available on website*

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

*T Cotter*

Miss T Cotter  
Principal

## *Our Advent Prayer: Hope*

God of hope, as we enter this season of Advent, we pray that this time will be different. This Christmas we will stop rushing, we will breathe, and take notice of You and your works in the world. May we be mindful of our actions, that they be peace-filled and our words loving as Christ is in the world.



**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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