



Newsletter No 14

Dear Parents and Friends

Friday 14 December 2018



Christmas Fayre

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas Fayre last Thursday. Congratulations to all our raffle prize winners: Caroline McK, Jenny H, Geraldine C, Ben O'T, Caitlin K and Aine K. The grand amount of **£2,192.00** was raised! Thank you for supporting this event; it was a great success.



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

This has been a fantastic week in school with Christmas definitely arriving at Holy Cross! The two EYS/KS1 performances were fantastic. It is amazing to see how confident the children have become and lovely to see so many happy and proud faces in the audience-our stars of tomorrow!



On Tuesday we tucked into a delicious traditional Christmas lunch. Thank you to all the kitchen staff for cooking such a lovely lunch for us all.



KS2 enjoyed their first performance today and again we were very proud of each and every child who took part. I will not say anything else about it because I do not want to spoil it for those of you coming to watch it on Monday!

IMPORTANT - Please see attached letter from Mr Farrell regarding the notification of term dates for 2019-2020.

There will be no homework set over the Christmas holidays. Thank you.

Next week is really busy so please check the dates and times at the bottom of this letter so that you know exactly what is happening. We are nearly there!



Advent Accumulation Project-Homeless

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. Please send all donations in no later than Wednesday 19 December. Our Rights Respecting Team, Mini Vinnies and our Chaplaincy Team have decided that the boxes will then be donated to the charity Fireside charity in Digbeth which supports homeless people in Birmingham. Please check Twitter to see how the visit goes. 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!



Multi Skills

On Tuesday a mixed team of Year 1 and Year 2 children represented the school at a Multi skills event. The children competed across 8 different events looking at their agility, balance and coordination. They did fantastically well and finished in a very credible 3rd place. We are very proud of the 100% effort they all gave and their positive and sporting attitudes throughout the competition. Well done team!



Sponsored Run

In October, the children took part in a sponsored run to help raise funds to support Annie Devlin's medical treatment. The children had lots of fun on the day, completing laps of the school field and working on their fitness. We are pleased to say that thanks to all your incredible generosity, we managed to raise an amazing £503.00 to help out Annie. Thank you for all your donations.



Mass: Year 4 will lead our Mass in School on **Thursday 20 December**. Everyone is welcome.



School Choir

Our school choir will be singing at the following events:

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 these final two events.



KS2 Carol Service

The final KS2 Carol Service will be held in the school hall on **Monday 17 December** - refreshments at 2.15pm and the service starting at 2.30pm. **Parents will be allowed entry into school at 2.15pm.** We hope you will be able to join us. Thank you.



Christmas Cinema Trip

EYFS and KS1 Monday 17 December (Meeting at Empire Cinema between 9.00am-9.15am) **(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)**



Non School Uniform Day

PTA Christmas Disco.

This will be held on **Tuesday 18 December from 3.20pm to 4.30pm.**

If you have not reserved a place on Parent Pay your child will need to be collected at 3.20pm; unless they usually go to Kids' Club. Any problems please contact the school office. Thank you.

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**. Also, if your child/children will not be going to Kids' Club after the disco please inform Kids' Club 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. All parents are asked for a **£1 donation** per child towards party food and prizes.

Children do enjoy their class parties however last year a significant number of children did not bring in the donation resulting in staff financing their own class parties. I do want the parties to continue so I encourage parents, who have not paid already, to ensure their children bring their **£1** donation in to school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please send the donation 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.*



Dinner Money

Parents of KS2 children who have school dinners, the deadline for the payment of **£64.50 is Friday 18 January 2019**; please make payment through ParentPay. If you have credit showing on your ParentPay account please deduct this from the £64.50 and pay the remaining balance. Thank you.



Swimming

Year 3 will resume their swimming sessions on **Thursday 10 January 2019**. Thank you.



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. The deadline for these to be returned to the school office is **Friday 15 January 2019**.



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 2 with 99.3% Well done!



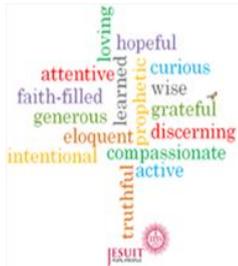
The Punctuality Award for the week: Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6!



Recommendations:

EYFS: Ava M, Eamonn G **Year 1:** Cora L, Isabella M-S **Year 2:** Tabitha S, Daniel K
Year 3: Ella B, Salvio J **Year 4:** Eden H, Keela K **Year 5:** Finbarr McG, Thomas B
Year 6: Imogen A, Ava A **Mrs Hope:** Cillian K (Y6).

Lunchtime Award: Isobel W (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:** Louis McL **Mr Rowlands:** Connor T **Miss Stewart:** Ronan L
Miss Stevens: Ellen T **Miss Lovelock:** Fraser C (Y5) **Mr Mayor:** Darcy W **Miss Cross:** Harrison S
Mrs Hope: Mia S (EYFS).



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

Erin H (EYFS), Drew B-H (Y1), Jimmy W, Bethany McK (Y2), Anaha P, Alexandra E (Y3), Mia B (Y5).

Dates for Diary - December 2018		
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 Non-school uniform day
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		
Monday 7 January 2019	8.50am	School opens for new term
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



ST. JOHN PAUL II
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