

Newsletter No 12

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date 01.12.2023



This week was Vocations Week and we have been exploring different vocations as well as our vocation now. The children have been discussing how we can serve God by serving others. Our Mission Statement clearly shows that it is Jesus' example we should all be following and the children have been trying hard to follow in Jesus' footsteps this week

Advent - On Sunday 3 December we begin the season of Advent when we officially start the journey to Christmas. We will start our Advent journey with a service on **Monday 4 December, starting at 9.00 a.m.**; you are all welcome to attend. 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.



Christmas Lunch for Children and Staff

On **Wednesday 14 December** we will be having our Christmas lunch in school. Children in KS2 who do not usually have a school dinner can order Christmas lunch at a cost of £2.40 paid via ParentMail. The deadline for this is **Monday 4 December**.

If your child is in KS1 and does not usually have a school dinner, please email the office to request a dinner. Please note, if your child already has school dinners, no further action/payment is needed! Please note that to avoid any disappointed children, payments for lunch must be made by **5.00pm Monday 4 December**. Please note that no further orders will be accepted after this point.

Reception Admissions 2024

The application process to apply for EYFS (Reception) places at Holy Cross Catholic Primary



School has **two** phases and must be completed by 15 January 2024.
This is because we are a Catholic School. Below is a brief summary of the process.
All of the detailed information can be found on our website.

Summary of the process

- Apply online - Birmingham City Council Website naming Holy Cross Catholic Primary School.
- Complete Supplementary Information Form for Holy Cross



Performances over the next few weeks

A busy couple of weeks coming up, here are some dates and details for your diary.

KS1 & Reception Nativity - Invitation to members of SVP and grandparents **only** to attend - Monday 4 December 2pm (Doors open at 1:45pm)

KS1 & Reception Nativity - Monday 11 December 2pm (doors open at 1:40pm)- 2 adults welcome per family

KS1 & Reception Nativity - Tuesday 12 December 9am (doors open at 8:45am) - 2 adults welcome per family

KS2 Carol service - Monday 18 December 2pm - 2 adults welcome per family

KS2 Carol service - Tuesday 19 December 9am - 2 adults welcome per family



Class Christmas Parties

These will be taking place on Wednesday 20 December. If you are able to contribute a £1 donation towards the cost of party food this will be very much appreciated. Payments to be made via ParentMail please, this will be available to pay from Monday and we would appreciate if donations can be sent by Friday 15 December to allow teachers to purchase the party food.



The Mini Vinnies have decided this year during Advent they would like the school to participate in the Rudolph Run to raise money for Birmingham Hospice (St Mary's and John Taylor's Hospice). This will be a sponsored event which will be held on Thursday 14th December and the link to the just giving page is below. The children had an assembly on Wednesday 15th November to look at what happens with the money that is raised and the impact it has.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/holy-cross-1700723067941?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fholy-cross-1700723067941&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Everyone at Holy Cross, children and staff are very excited about this event and we appreciate all of your support.

Virtues and Values

This half term we are concentrating on being 'Attentive & Discerning.' 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 recognise those children who have made that extra special effort to follow Jesus' example and show the virtues in their daily life.

This week's winners are: **EYFS:** Callie **Year 1:** Harper **Year 2:** Harry **Year 3:** Arun
Year 4: Summer-Rose **Year 5:** Freddie **Year 6:** All of Y6

Recommendations:



EYFS: Elayna & Alexander **Year 1:** Ronnie & Raye **Year 2:** Ava & Frankie
Year 3: Noah C & Evangeline **Year 4:** Kenny & Fraser **Year 5:** Aariana & Amelie
Year 6: Nylah & Jack



Attendance - *Our school strives for 100% attendance. This year one of our school priorities is to improve attendance further and we will be assessing attendance as the number of days absent rather than as an attendance %.*

This week the Attendance Award was won by: Y3 with 2 days absent.

This week the Punctuality Award was won by: Y2 & Y5 with 0 late marks.

Government legislation states that a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a "Persistent Absence Pupil". This means that a child has missed 19 days or 38 sessions of school. This equates to your child missing half a day every week; four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.



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

Ivy - Y3

Skye - Y5



Letters sent home:

Jingle & Mingle / Bikeability (Y5) / Tree Workshop (Y4) / EYFS & KS1 Christmas Performance Arrangements for Attending Mass at Church (EYFS) / Bring it On Brum

CAFOD Christmas Gifts



A reminder that this Christmas, instead of buying Christmas cards to send to each other in our school, we are going to raise money towards CAFOD's World Gifts charity. World Gifts are a range of charity gifts that help transform the lives of poor communities and families in developing countries. It can include a water supply; chickens; bees; or a vegetable garden. Last year we bought a marvellous moo cow!

Therefore, please hold onto your Christmas card money as we will not be exchanging Christmas cards in school instead they can use the money to go towards the Enterprise Shed. Thank you.

Enterprise Shed-Mini Vinnies



In addition to our Christmas card initiative, some of our Minnie Vinnies are doing a sale from the enterprise shed from 4 December up until 15 December. They will be selling the following: Bows at 50p, Bookmarks at 50p, Christmas decorations at 50p and mindful colouring sheets at 50p. In addition to their sale, they will be hosting a raffle on December 15 and a cake sale on December 14 and 15 and the opportunity for the children to make loom band bracelets. Any money raised is being shared between John Taylor Hospice, Red Cross and Cafod World gifts. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Christmas shoe-box appeal

The Mini Vinnies have once again decided that we would like to take part in the Christmas shoe-box appeal and as a School of Sanctuary we would like to help the most vulnerable and in need in our local community - the SIFA Fireside Services who support the homeless in our city.

Please find a list of the items that would be ideal for the shoe-box:

- Chocolates/Biscuits
- Hats
- Socks
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Toiletries



Please don't include second hand items.

It would be lovely if the shoe-box was gift wrapped but it will need to be left unsealed.

Your Christian generosity is always greatly appreciated and this is a wonderful opportunity to give to those who are much less fortunate than ourselves.

Please could the shoe-boxes be returned to school by **Friday 8 December** to allow time for them to be distributed.

Bella - Mini Vinnie President Mrs. Hope - Mini Vinnie Co-ordinator

Bring it on Brum

This week along with the newsletter, there will be a Bring it on Brum leaflet that will go out. Below is some further information.

1) Winter Food Boxes

As part of the winter Bring It On Brum! programme; families will be offered a winter food box. Bring it on Brum! has partnered with Morrison's to provide a box of cupboard essentials and fresh produce. The contents of the box will include all the ingredients needed to make four meals. All boxes are vegetarian.

One food box is available for each eligible household (NOT one per child). Eligible households must have at least one child or young person eligible for benefits-related free school meals living there.

Families can register for a free winter food box from Monday, 27th November 2023; registrations close on Wednesday, 6th December 2023 or as soon as all available food boxes have been allocated. More information on winter food boxes and how to register can be found at: www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/activity-packs-and-food-boxes.

**** THIS IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND THEY MUST CONTACT THE OFFICE TO RECEIVE THEIR SCHOOL CODE ****

2) Activity Packs

If you are not able to access face-to-face holiday clubs, at home activity packs are also available for the winter school holiday. Families will need their Bring it on Brum! / Free School Meal code (the school's 7-digit DfE number) to request a free winter activity pack. Packs are available one per eligible child and are available for primary or secondary age.

Families can register for a free winter activity pack from Monday, 27 November 2023; registrations close on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 or as soon as all activity packs have been allocated. More information on the activity packs and how to register can be found at: www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/activity-packs-and-food-boxes.

Activity packs will be delivered between Monday, 11 and Friday, 22 December 2023.

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Dates for Diary - December

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|-----------------------|------------|--|
| Friday 1 December | All Day | Non Uniform Day - Bring a Bottle |
| Monday 4 December | 9:00am | Whole School Advent Service |
| Monday 4 December | 2:00pm | KS1 Nativity Production for Members of SVP and Grandparents only |
| Wednesday 6 December | All Day | Cake Donations for PTA Jingle and Mingle - School Uniform |
| Friday 8 December | 3:30 - 5pm | Non Uniform Day - PTA Jingle & Mingle |
| Monday 11 December | 2:00pm | EYFS & KS1 Nativity |
| Tuesday 12 December | 9:00am | EYFS & KS1 Nativity |
| Thursday 14 December | All Day | Rudolph Run |
| Thursday 14 December | 12 - 1pm | Christmas Jumper Day/Non Uniform Day - Christmas Dinner |
| Monday 18 December | 2:00pm | KS2 Carol Service |
| Tuesday 19 December | 9:00 am | KS2 Carol Service |
| Wednesday 20 December | Afternoon | Class Christmas Parties |

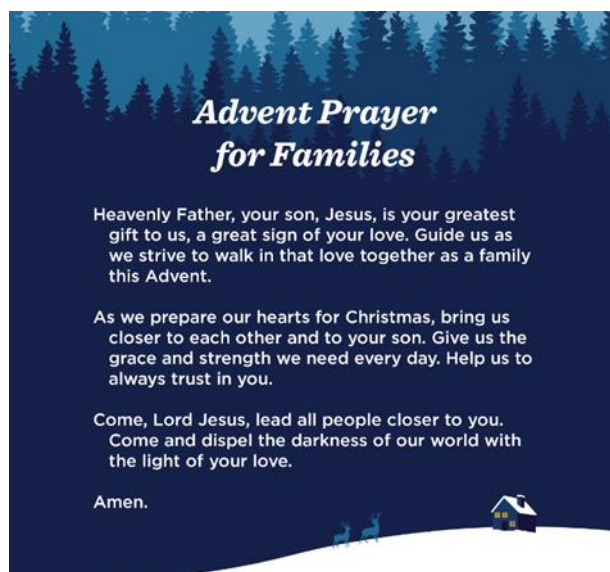
Have a lovely weekend



Miss T Cotter
Executive Principal



Mrs C Gorman
Head of School



**Advent Prayer
for Families**

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love.

Amen.