

Newsletter No 13

Dear Parents/Person with Parental Responsibility

Date Friday 8 December



Today is the day to 'Jingle and Mingle!' Santa is waiting to meet all the children and the PTA have arranged some lovely creative activities to get us in the mood for Christmas! Thank you to all have worked hard to organise and run this event.

Staffing Update



We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming a new member of staff after Christmas. Miss Turner will be joining the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Principal in January. A very experienced Inclusion Lead and SENDCo, Miss Turner will be in charge of all areas of Inclusion at Holy Cross. She visited the school this week to meet with Mrs Elliott, our interim SENDCO. A coffee morning will be arranged after Christmas where parents of children with additional needs will be invited to meet Miss Turner. I am so grateful to Mrs Elliott and the school staff who have worked so hard to ensure all our learners are supported in this period of recruitment; it was a long time but the school wanted to appoint the right person - an exciting new chapter begins. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome.

PE Lessons



A polite reminder that PE lessons are part of the curriculum and all children are expected to participate. If your child is well enough to be in school, they are expected to participate in their PE Lesson. As per our school policy, any children with ear piercings are politely asked to remove these before school on PE days.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Performances over the next few of weeks

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

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.



Rudolph Run

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**. 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. Below is the link for any sponsorships please.

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

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Worship

Christmas is a special family time but it is also a very important time in the Church's year. Please remember to celebrate Mass this Christmas as a family. The Service of Reconciliation and Masses at Holy Cross are as follows:

Reconciliation Service: Tuesday 19 December 7:00pm at St Nicholas, Boldmere

Christmas Eve: 5:00pm & 9:00pm

Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord: 8:30am & 10:30am

The children have brought home a card from Fr Neil with all the times of Masses and Services over the Christmas period.

NHS



Attendance - Is my child too ill to attend school?

We appreciate that ascertaining whether or not your child is too ill to attend school can be a challenge. The NHS has produced a document called 'Is my child too ill to attend school?' which lists some common illness and gives advice on when children should stay at home and when they can attend school.

Please click on the link for more information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Dogs

At Holy Cross, we are all part of our Holy Cross family, including our four legged friends! This is therefore a polite reminder to parents who bring dogs to the school gates that it is their responsibility to be vigilant of the dog's actions and to clear up after their dog. We are a car free street to encourage families to walk, ride, scoot to school so it is important that the pavements are safe and clean. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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. The raffle for the chocolate will be drawn on Friday 15 December. 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.

The shoe-box appeal has been extended to **Wednesday 13 December**. Thank you so much for your kind donations so far, showing such Christian Spirit during this time of giving.

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



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:** David **Year 1:** Casey **Year 2:** Emily **Year 3:** Kheelan
Year 4: Rubi **Year 5:** Annabel **Year 6:** Joseph

Recommendations:



EYFS: Aurora & Emily **Year 1:** Olive & Corey **Year 2:** Cara & Conor
Year 3: Olivia & Cherish **Year 4:** Mason & Erin **Year 5:** Sam & Julia **Year 6:** George & Ruby



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: Year 1 with 3 days absent.

This week the Punctuality Award was won by: Year 2 & Year 6 with 2 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:

George (EYFS)



Letters Sent Home:

Ensemble Festive Recital, Guitar Lessons, Choir - Jingle & Mingle





Dates for Diary - December

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

Dates for Diary - January

Monday 8 January		Return to School - Spring Term
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Dates for Diary - February

Friday 9 February		Break up for Half Term
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Holy Cross
Catholic Primary School

We share in Christ's life so He can guide our thoughts, words and actions.

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Have a lovely weekend

Miss T Cotter
Executive Principal

Mrs C Gorman
Head of School

