



HEADTEACHER: Mr A.G. Neenan

Cross Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6LN  
Tel: 0121 357 3216 Fax: 0121 358 5523

email: [headteacher@holynamesandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@holynamesandwell.sch.uk)  
website: [www.holynameprimary.co.uk](http://www.holynameprimary.co.uk)

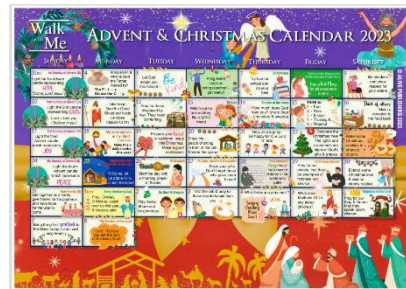
"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

### Newsletter 15: Friday 22nd December 2023

Dear Parents

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking all of you for the tremendous support you provide for our school. We have reached the end of a very long term!

On behalf of our staff I would like to say thank you for the many gifts which have been given to our staff from our pupils and families. There is absolutely no expectation from school for this – your support in itself is greatly valued and appreciated by all of our staff.



All of our pupils in Y4, Y5 and Y6 have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the past week as part of their Advent preparation.

I hope that all of the children enjoyed our annual 'Christmas Crafts' day on Tuesday. Thank you very much to all of our staff for preparing the activities and Miss Edmunds for arranging the day.

Our school kitchen staff – Aggie and Monika – served 180 Christmas dinners to our pupils on Wednesday. The dinners were absolutely delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone!

Thank you to our Choir Club who performed a selection of Christmas carols and hymns in assembly this morning. It was lovely to hear such wonderful singing. Thank you to Miss Doody and Mrs Berry – our musical directors!

Please remember to continue to follow your 'Walk With Me' calendar at home – the season of Christmas begins on Christmas day and continues until the feast of The Baptism of Our Lord on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

I hope that you and your families have a very happy and holy Christmas. I will look forward to seeing all of our children safely back in school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

#### **SchoolComms App:**

Please download the free SchoolComms App to your phone (the details / links are in the circulation email for this week's newsletter) if you have not already done this. By doing this school will not have to pay for text messages to parents when they are used and this will save us quite a lot of money! Thank you for your support.

#### **Christmas Celebrations:**

These are the times for Christmas Masses and services in our parish church (to which you are all warmly invited):

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve</b>	
Holy Mass for Syro-Malankara Community	<b>2.00pm</b>
First Mass of Christmas (Family Mass)	<b>7.00pm</b>
Christmas Carols followed by Mass	<b>8.30pm</b>
Christmas Midnight Mass	<b>9.00pm</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day</b>	
Christmas Holy Mass of the Dawn	<b>8.30am</b>
Christmas Holy Mass during the Day	<b>10.30am</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
Mass for the Feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers	<b>10.30am</b>

### **Start of Term Mass of Epiphany - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January:**

We are looking forward to celebrating mass our first school mass of 2024, with Father Kuriakose, in the school hall at **9.15am on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January**. All parents, family members and parishioners are warmly invited to join us.

### **R.E. Arts and Crafts Morning:**

The children were very busy during our annual 'Christmas Crafts' day on Tuesday. All of the children should have brought a nativity themed piece of art home. Thank you very much to all of our staff for preparing the activities.

### **Bambinelli:**

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (bambinelli) from each of their nativity sets to St. Peter's Square. Following the Sunday Angelus address, the Pope blesses the figurines. This is known as Bambinelli Sunday.

Our children made some of their own bambinellis which were blessed by Father Jibu during our Advent Mass in school on Wednesday.

The bambinellis are the first gift of Christmas which are to be placed in your home. Here is a prayer you are invited to pray together as a family



*Heavenly Father,  
we thank You that You love us so much that You gave us your only Son, Jesus,  
as a most precious gift.  
We ask you to bless this crib that we have prepared.  
Let it remind us of your presence with us in all the ups and downs,  
the joys and sorrows of our human lives.*

*We thank You for the gifts we are about to receive;  
let them remind us of the gift You gave us;  
Jesus, your Son, who became one of us and taught us to be fully human.  
Help us to be generous like You.  
Help us to follow the example of Jesus in all we do.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

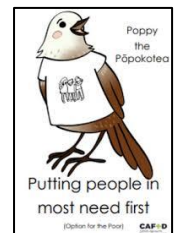
### **Nativity Art Competition:**

Thank you to all of the children who entered the Knights of St Columba nativity art competition. The entries have now been sent off! Good luck to all those who have entered! Keep an eye on the newsletter for any updates!

### **Reverse Advent Calendar:**

Thank you to all of our school community for the generous donations that have been brought in by our children and families. The Great Barr foodbank have collected two whole shopping trollies!

Your kindness and generosity is a true reflection of Catholic Social Teaching.



### **Y6 Pray and Stay- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January:**

We would like to invite our **Y6** parents into school at **2.45pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January** to join us for a special advent family prayer service as part of our sacramental preparation for Confirmation. This is an opportunity for our family members to join with their child's class to pray together as we approach a very special time in the lives of Y6.



### **Y4 Swimming:**

The next lesson will be taking place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Reception - Y6 Reading Challenges:**

Our Reading Challenges are a great way to ensure your child is reading a range of texts which are age-related (with some challenging texts too!)

To make it super easy to participate, we have uploaded a direct form link which is accessible through your Marvellous Me accounts. The form is called 'YR RC' / 'Y1 RC' etc and they are also available on the school website – just click:

'Curriculum and Gallery > Reading' and scroll down to 'Reading Challenge'.

Or click on the links here: [Y6](#) [Y5](#) [Y4](#) [Y3](#) [Y2](#) [Y1](#) [Reception](#)

Every time your child reads a book from the specially selected list, they just need to complete an entry on the form and they will automatically be entered into a prize draw!

**The next prize draw will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

All of these books will support your child's love of reading and further enhance their vocabulary and encourage a love of reading.

**All children should aim to have entered at least once by then. Good luck!**

**Masses next Half Term:**

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **11.30am**.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4</b> and <b>Y5</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation in school at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>

**Diary Dates:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of spring term for all pupils <b>Y5 &amp; Y6</b> Cheerleading Club <b>3.15pm - 4.15pm</b> (new group)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Dance Club <b>3.15pm - 4.15pm</b> (new group)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> family prayer service at <b>2.45pm</b> in school <b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4</b> Educational Visit to Bishops Wood
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Mass with the Rite of Confirmation at <b>7.00pm</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y1</b> Parent Workshop (phonics and reading) in school at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation at <b>9.15am</b>

**Happy birthday to:**

Phoebe S, Martha T (Y6), Savanna M (Y5), Chelsea May O'S (Y5), Dylan R (Y3), Meleyah S (Y2), Kevin W (Y2), Prince Emmanuel R-D (Reception) who all have a birthday to celebrate during the Christmas holiday or the first week of term.

Yours sincerely

*A. Neenan*

Mr A.G. Neenan

Headteacher

One of the precepts of being a Catholic is to attend Sunday Mass (or the vigil Mass for Sunday) every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation. This weekly commitment gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord which is why Sundays are known as the Lord's day.

**Mass at Holy Name Church:**

**Saturday 12.30pm**

**Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

### Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In this Sunday's Gospel, the angel Gabriel comes to tell Mary that she will have a very special baby, that he will be the Son of God and will be called Jesus.

How do you think Mary felt when she heard this news?



Mary was frightened at first. Her life was going to change forever. But she trusted in God and said "yes" to all that God asked of her.

The angel Gabriel is God's messenger to Mary and he brings some very important news.

Have you ever been told a very important piece of news?

Who was the messenger?

Was it someone in your family, a teacher or a friend?

What did they tell you?

For example was it about a new baby brother or sister, or was it that someone was coming to visit?

Or something else?

How did you feel? Were you happy, excited, sad or frightened?

God wants us all to be his messengers in the world. To share the message that God loves everyone and that we are all part of one global family.

What do you think it means to be a global family? It means that we believe that people all over the world are our brothers and sisters, wherever they live, whatever they believe.

That is a message that God wants us to share.

### Our Catholic Mission:

We want to be like Mary and answer "yes" to God when he calls us, spreading God's message of love and peace to all.

This week, how will you spread the message that God loves everyone the same?

How will you remember the true spirit of Christmas?

### Prayer:

God of love,  
help us to be your messengers on earth,  
showing your love for all people in everything that we do.  
Amen.

*Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy*