

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

Newsletter 8: Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents

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

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 5th January**.



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.

I hope that you all enjoyed our Infant Nativity performances and the PTA Christmas Fayre.

Thank you to all of our Y4 and Y5 parents who have joined us for special family advent prayer services in the past couple of weeks. It was lovely to have you in school to join us in prayer at this special time of year.

Thank you so much to our Christmas Choir, led by Miss Doody and Mrs Berry, who have sung so well on a number of occasions during the past few weeks and represented our school so well. We are so proud of you!

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.

Some of our Y3 and Y6 pupils received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last Friday. They were very mature and prayerful. We are very, very proud of them. Thank you especially to our parents and family members who joined us in church for this very special occasion.

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 **Sunday 11th January**.

Infant Nativity:

A big congratulations to Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 on two brilliant nativity performances last week! Great acting, singing and music making were enjoyed by all of our family members. What a brilliant way to celebrate the most important story ever told. We are very proud of you all!



CAFOD Fundraising:

We are so grateful to our Catholic School Council and House Captains for organising some fantastic fundraisers in support of **CAFOD World Gifts**. Their creative initiatives included:

- **KS2 Sustainable Christmas Cards** – children donated instead of exchanging cards.
- **KS1 Nativity Donations** – inviting contributions from parents.
- **Weekly Bake Sale** – a sweet success!

Thanks to their hard work and your generosity, we have raised an incredible **£531.11** for CAFOD. These funds will help make a real difference to communities around the world.



On Thursday, our children met to decide how to use their fundraising money. They chose to support four meaningful initiatives:

- **Medical Outreach Team** – delivering essential healthcare services.
- **Marvellous Moo Cow** – improving nutrition and supporting farmland.
- **Send a Child to School** – providing access to education.
- **Vegetable Garden** – helping families grow their own food.



Together, these choices will make a lasting impact on health, education, and sustainability.

Thank you to **you all** for your support.

Brushstrokes Reverse Advent Calendar:

Thank you to the whole of our school community for the kindness that you have shown in our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal this advent. We have been overwhelmed with donations! Thank you for your continued support and for putting Catholic Social Teaching right at the heart of what we do at Holy Name.



Christmas Pantomime - Snow White:

A huge thank you to our PTA who paid for a theatre group to perform 'Snow White' to all of our children (Foundation- Y6) on Monday afternoon. There were a lot of laughs, sing-a-longs and a great amount of fun!



Christmas Dinner:

Children and staff thoroughly enjoyed a tasty Christmas lunch on Wednesday. What a festive mid-week treat!



Nativity Crafts:

On Tuesday all of our pupils completed a craft activity linked to the nativity. This helped us to develop our art skills in R.E.

Here are some of the great examples below:



Y6 created some beautiful clay angels and designing and perfecting them with special ceramic paint.

In Foundation, we were busy making nativity crowns in celebration of the birth of Jesus!



Threading and Sewing in Foundation Stage:

We have been very busy in school! Our Nursery children we have been threading wool to create Christmas pudding decorations. Our Reception pupils have been sewing Christmas tree canvases using plastic needles!



Y1 Design and Technology:

Y1 have had a very crafty week! We have entered fully into the festive spirit by designing our very own Christmas stocking. We learnt the history behind why we hang a stocking at Christmas and then used our sewing skills to bring our designs to life.



Y3 Design and Technology - 'Luminous Lamps'

During DT week, Y3 learned about Thomas Edison and how his invention of the light bulb changed everyday life. The children designed and created papier-mâche balloon lamps and built electrical circuits with bulbs and switches to make them light up.



Y6 Design and Technology – 'Terrific Tote Bags':



In the style of Bonnie Cashin, Y6 researched, designed, created and evaluated a Christmas themed tote bag this week.

From threading a needle, to using three different types of stitch, the children thoroughly enjoyed putting their festive creations from the design board into real life! Well done!

Goldfinch Award for Jesuit Values and Virtues:

Catholic Schools Pupil Profile: this half term we are growing to be '**Learned & Wise**'.



Congratulations to the following children who have excelled at following the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile values and virtues of '**Learned**' and '**Wise**' this half term.

They will be receiving special certificates in assembly on **Friday 9th January**.

All parents are invited to join us for this assembly. **N.B.** Nursery pupils will be given their certificates in class.



Foundation		Y1	Y2
Purity E Jamie S		Daya S Harry N	Jack B Prince-Emmanuel R-D
Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Consuela D Ben T	Calia K Edward McN	Logan Martyna R	Farhan S Tara S

Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Sunday 1 st February 2026	Y6 Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Saturday 16 th May 2026	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm

Primary School Reception Class:

For those parents wishing to apply for a place at Holy Name, as soon as you have made your application to your Local Authority, if your child is a baptised Catholic then please request a supplementary information form from the school office and complete and return this to school along with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

Sandwell residents can apply online at:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/admissions

If you require help or further information, then please phone the Sandwell Admissions Parent Support Line: **0121 569 6765**.

School Places Available:

We have school places available in a number of classes in school.

Please contact the school office or apply for a place via Sandwell LA:

Apply for a school place | Sandwell Council

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 accessible on 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 more books that you read the more chances that you have to win!

The next prize draw will be on Friday 30th January

School Masses:

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **10.00am**.

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 6 th January	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am - Holyday of Obligation for the Fast of the Epiphany.
Wednesday 14 th January	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 21 st January	NO MASS
Wednesday 28 th January	NO MASS
Wednesday 4 th February	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Wednesday 11 th February	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 5 th January	First day of spring term for all pupils
Tuesday 6 th January	Feast of the Epiphany – Holyday of Obligation - KS2 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am Y2 gymnastics club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 8 th January	Y4 swimming lessons recommence. Y1 & Rec multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm NO FRENCH CLUB
Friday 9 th January	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Monday 12 th January	
Tuesday 13 th January	Y2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 14 th January	Y1 & Rec Multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 15 th January	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)

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

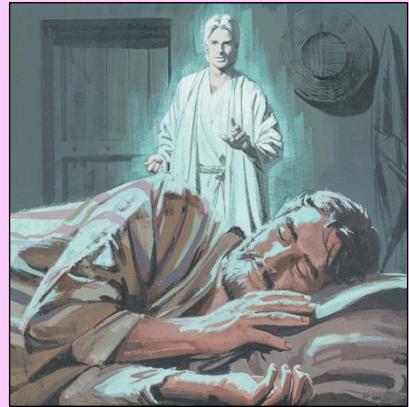
**Sunday 8.30am
and 10.30am**



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In this Sunday's gospel reading, an angel comes to tell Joseph that everything will be all right and that Jesus is not just an ordinary baby, but is very special. He is the son of God.



How do you think Joseph feels in this story?

Do you have a baby brother or sister? What is their name? They need lots of looking after. Even though they are very small, babies need lots of things to make sure that they are happy. Can you think of some of the things that babies need? Food, warmth, love and attention, sleep, somewhere to live?

No matter where in the world they are born, babies need the same basic things. Sometimes it is hard for families to provide all of these things because of what is happening around them.

God loves us all, even the tiniest baby. As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we think about all the other babies around the world and how special they are too.

Our Catholic Mission:

This week, keep babies, children and their parents around the world in your prayers.

Prayer:

God of light,
you sent your angel to tell Joseph that Jesus was a special baby.
Help us to remember that all babies are special
because they are all part of your family
and you love us all.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy