



HEADTEACHER: Mr A.G. Neenan

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

Newsletter 8: Thursday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are all well.

Please remember that the PTA Christmas Fayre is taking place in the school hall immediately after school **tomorrow**.

Our junior children will be singing Christmas carols on the playground at **3.00pm** (before hometime dismissal) and the PTA will be selling hot drinks and mulled wine while our children are singing.

Please remember to follow your 'Walk With Me' calendar at home each day as we journey through the season of Advent.

Thank you to all of our Y4 parents who joined us for a special family advent prayer service this week. It was lovely to have you in school to join us in prayer at this special time of year.



PTA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

Raffle tickets were sent home last Friday for the PTA Christmas raffle. Please return your raffle tickets and money to the school office by the morning of **Friday 6th December**. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Fayre.

Reverse Advent Calendar:

Thank you to our whole school community for the donations we have gratefully received for week one of our reverse calendar. You are truly putting Catholic Social Teaching at the heart of our school community and our Advent preparations.

Next week we will be collecting these items:

- Hot Chocolate
- Boxes Of Chocolates
- Deodorant
- Boxes Of Tissues
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toilet Paper

Infant Nativity Tickets:

Tickets are on sale **from the school office** at 50p each. There are two tickets per child for each performance. Please ensure that you collect your tickets as these will be required for admission to the performances.

If there is anyone with a disability or restricted mobility, then please contact the school office so that arrangements can be made with regard to seating arrangements.

Christmas Lunch:

The school kitchen is providing a Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 18th December**. If you would like your child to have a hot meal (and they do not usually have a school meal) then please return the slip with payment to the school office by **Wednesday 13th December**. Where possible, please have the correct change. Please note, payment is only required for children in **Year 3-6** as all children in **Reception to Y2** are part of the universal infant free school meal offer.

The Magical Map KS2 Creative Writing Competition:

Calling all budding KS2 writers! Where will 'The Magical Map' creative writing competition take you? You could write about going ANYWHERE! Real, imaginary, past, present or future, in a short story of no more than 100 words.

KS2 entries are to be submitted to Mrs Kavanagh by **Friday 13th December 2024**.



Pray and Stay - Advent Family Prayer Services for Y5 Parents:

We would like to invite our **Y5** parents into school to join us for our special Advent Family Prayer Services on this date:

Y5 - 2.35pm on Monday 16th December

This is an opportunity for our family members to join with their child's class to pray together at this special time of year. Please do your best to join us for these special services and note that all attendees must be in the school hall at 2.35pm. It will not be possible to join the prayer service after it has started.



Christmas Choir Performance

In assembly on Friday 20th December, the Holy Name Christmas Choir will be performing some festive Christmas songs to the rest of the school. Parents and carers are invited to join us.

Class Christmas Parties:

The class Christmas parties will be taking place as follows:

Date:	Christmas Parties:
Thursday 19th December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2
Friday 20th December	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6



Your child should be sent into school in their party clothes / Christmas jumper on their day.

Parking Safely

Please park safely and considerately when bringing pupils to school and collecting them. The double yellow lines and yellow zig zag lines should not be used for parking, nor should pavements. Parking in prohibited and / or inappropriate places creates an unnecessary hazard for pupils and parents. Thank you for your cooperation.

Knights of St Columba Nativity Art Competition:

The Knights of St Columba are once again inviting you to enter their fabulous art competition.

All you need to do is get creative with your art materials and follow the design brief below:

- A piece of art work on A3 or A4 paper showing the Nativity Scene of our Lord.
- Bible chapter and verse that best relates to your drawing on the front of your design.



On the back of your entry please include the following information:

- Name of child.
- Age of child.
- Date of birth of entrant.
- School Year Group.
- Name and full address of school.

Please send all completed entries to Miss Edmunds no later than **Friday 20th December**. Good Luck!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – HOLY NAME PARISH – HELP FOR FAMILIES:

The St Vincent de Paul society in the parish of Holy Name have asked for this information to be shared with our families:

The aim of our society is to seek and find those in need and provide them with practical support and friendship in a spirit of justice, while tackling the causes of poverty.



The help we give **is not limited to Catholic families** - poverty, loneliness and the need to share problems are as urgent and relevant to all communities in Great Barr just as they are in the rest of the country.

To access this help, please contact the Parish Office, and leave your name and contact telephone number and ask for the SVP to contact you. The SVP will then take it from there:

Parish Office: 0121 357 1351 holyname.bham@rcaob.org.uk

School Places Available:

We have school places available in our new Reception class and also in other 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 20th December.

Masses this 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**.

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 11 th December	NO CLASSES ATTENDING MASS
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 9 th December	Y1 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 10 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 2.00pm Y3 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 11 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 9.30am NO CLASSES ATTENDING MASS
Thursday 12 th December	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 13 th December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Monday 16 th December	Y5 Advent Family Prayer Service at 2.35pm in school Y1 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 17 th December	Y3 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in school hall at 9.15am Christmas Dinner Day in school



Date:	Information:
Thursday 19 th November	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 20 th December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome) Y3,4,5,6 Christmas Parties Last day 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

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In this Sunday's Gospel, God speaks to John while he is in the desert.

What does John then go out and do?

John the Baptist goes round to the people and tells them to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. He offers to baptise them so that their sins will be forgiven.

How do you think the people felt when they heard this?

Advent is a time when we think about our actions and try to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus. We think about what we could do better and try to make a change to our lives.

Our Catholic Mission:

How will you make a difference to your own lives and to the lives of others around the world this week as you prepare for the coming of Jesus?

Prayer:

Merciful God,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus.
In this season of Advent, help us to prepare for his coming as well.
Help us to use this time of waiting to make positive changes in our lives
and the lives of others around the world.
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy

