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

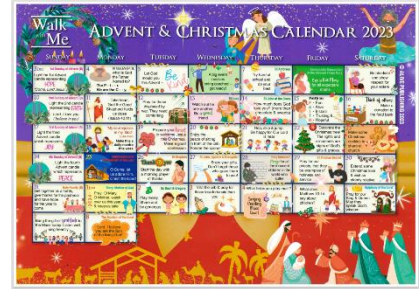
Newsletter 14: Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have all had a good week.

We have a special end of term advent mass in the school hall at **9.15am** next **Wednesday 20th December**. All parents, family members and parishioners are invited to join this celebration.

This week we had two super nativity performances from our Reception, Year One and Two pupils. They told the story very well and explained the true meaning of Christmas. The children looked fabulous in their costumes. Thank you to our parents for all your support.



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

Last week, I forgot to thank all of the Y3 and Y6 pupils and parents who attended our special mass of enrolment for sacramental preparation on Sunday 3rd December. It was a wonderful celebration – we were so proud to present our pupils and parents to our parish.

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

SchoolComms App:

Please download the free SchoolComms App to your phone (the details / links are in the circulation email for this week's newsletter). 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.

Chain of Peace:

Please see the letter from Miss Edmunds which has been circulated with today's newsletter inviting pupils to join in with our school 'chain of peace' which we are making in preparation for our whole school celebration of mass on Wednesday 20th December. It will only take a few minutes to do. Parents can write their child's 'vision of peace' for them if this helps. It would be amazing if everybody takes part!

Class Christmas Parties:

The class Christmas parties will be taking place as follows:

Date:	Christmas Parties:
Thursday 21 st December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2
Friday 22 nd December	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Your child should be sent into school in their party clothes / Christmas jumper on their day. Please see the letter which has been emailed to you along with this newsletter.

Reverse Advent Calendar:

At Holy Name we know that Christmas is a time for giving so, to help us enter Christmas spirit, this year we would like to launch a reverse Advent calendar.

We are asking each member of our school to bring **one item each week**. Thank you for your generosity so far.

Week 3	Items
Monday 18 th December - Thursday 21 st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baby food (jars or pouches)• Baby wipes• Nappies• Nappy bags• Baby Bath• Baby lotion• Nappy cream

PTA Christmas Fayre Update:

We had an absolutely fantastic Christmas Fayre after school last Friday. Almost £1,100 was raised. Thank you again to Mr Doocey (PTA Chair) and all of the parents and pupils who helped out and contributed to this occasion – and thank you especially to Father Christmas who was able to make a very special appearance and also very generously brought along many, many presents for the children!

Choir Club Performance:

Our after school Choir Club will be performing Christmas carols and songs during next week's celebration assembly on **Friday 22nd December**. All of our parents are very welcome to join us. Assembly begins at **9.15am**.



Y4 Swimming:

Please note, there will be no swimming lesson next week. The next lesson will take place on **Thursday 11th January**.

Number Fact of the Week:

It is really important for our pupils to learn their multiplication facts as quickly as possible. By the end of Y4, it is expected that all pupils will be able to instantly recall all of these up to 12×12 .

Every week, Mr Shanahan, our maths leader, will be setting a challenge to learn a specific number fact.

Be prepared: when he sees you around school he will be testing you!

This week's number fact is:

$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

or

$$4^2 = 16$$



Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 18 th December	Nursery Advent Stay and Play session 10.45 – 11.45am NO CHOIR CLUB
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Crafts Day in school
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole school mass in school hall at 9.15am Christmas Dinner Day in school
Thursday 21 st December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties NO SWIMMING NO FRENCH CLUB
Friday 22 nd December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome) Y3,4,5,6 Christmas Parties Last day of term

Happy birthday to:

Osiozokhai O (Y5), Martyna R (Y3), Emmanuel A (Y2) and Roisin B (Nursery) who all have a special day to celebrate next week.

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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

At the beginning of this Sunday's Gospel it talks a lot about the light. The light is another name for someone very special. Can you think who that might be?

Jesus is the light of the world.

This reading says that John the Baptist came to tell everyone Jesus was coming.

Why do you think Jesus is called the light of the world? - Jesus is the Son of God and he shows us how we should live – he is a shining light in the darkness for us to follow.

Make a room at home as dark as possible and light a candle.

See how much light one small candle gives out. This is like Jesus – shining his light for all to see.

But if we share the light we can see so much more! If we share the light of Jesus we can light up the whole world.

Our Catholic Mission:

How do you think we can share the light of Jesus with others?

We can be kind. We can be generous. We can share with others. We can be friendly. We can help people who are poor, or sick, or hungry.

How will you share the light of Jesus in the next week?

Prayer:

God of light,
shine brightly, show us how to bring hope to others.
God of mercy,
help us to comfort people and to share in their joy.
God of hope,
help us this Advent, to share your light with others.
Amen.

