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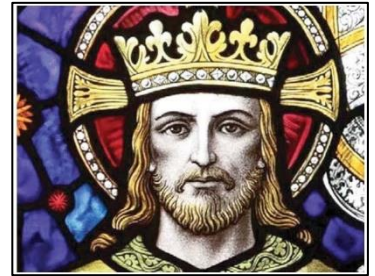
"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

Newsletter 11: Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents

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

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King – which is celebrated on the last Sunday before the season of Advent begins. When we celebrate Christ as King, we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose 'loving-kindness endures forever.' It is fitting that the feast celebrating Christ's kingship is observed right before Advent, when we liturgically wait for the promised Messiah (King).



We were visited by the Sandwell School Nursing Service and also the Fire Service in school this week. Almost all of our classes received an educational talk from our special visitors.

Thank you to the Y5 parents who attended the growth and development presentation on Tuesday afternoon and thank you also to all of the Reception parents who attended the workshop with Miss Edmunds on Wednesday morning.

Finally, thank you again for your generosity today in providing gifts for our PTA Christmas Fayre which is taking place immediately after school on Friday 8th December.

Parent Survey:

We have set up an online questionnaire for parents to complete to gather your views. Please complete a questionnaire **for each of your children** so that we can analyse the completed questionnaires by class. We are very interested in your feedback and will share the results with parents next term. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and responses.

[2023 PARENT SURVEY](#)

Knights of St Columba Nativity Art Competition:



The Knights of St Columba are inviting you to enter their fabulous art competition to win a cash prize of £30.00, a certificate and a trophy!

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 15th December**. Good Luck!

Sacramental Dates for 2023-24:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Kuriakose.

Please note that there is a special mass of enrolment for our **Y3** and **Y6** pupils and their families in church at **10.30am** on **Sunday 3rd December**. All parents whose children will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend**.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 3 rd December 2023	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Friday 15 th March 2024	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm
Saturday 11 th May 2024	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 10.00am

Holy Souls, November, the Month of Remembrance:

November is the month of remembrance. We would like invite all of our school community to let us know if there someone special that you would like us to include in our prayer intentions in school.

Please follow the link below to let us know:

[**HOLY SOULS PRAYER FORM**](#)



Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful
departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.

Staff Updates:

As you may already know, Mrs Chapman is expecting her baby at the beginning of December. She will be commencing her maternity leave from Monday 4th December, so next Friday 1st December will be her last day in school. We would like to give our very best wishes to Mrs Chapman as she prepares for motherhood – we will be excitedly looking forward to hearing from her when her baby is born!

Donation Days:

We will be asking for donations for the next few Fridays to help our PTA to prepare for their Christmas Fayre.

If you are able to help then your donations will be very gratefully welcomed, **please do not worry** if you are not able to make a contribution.

Thank you again in advance for your generosity and also to the dedicated members of the PTA who work so hard to raise substantial funds for our school.

Date:	Donations	Information:
Friday 1 st December	CHOCOLATES AND SWEETS	Donations of chocolates and sweets e.g. small selection boxes, chocolate santas, bars of chocolate.
Friday 8 th December	BOTTLES	Preferably alcohol: please check that any bottles that you have donated are unopened - for PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE .

Look out for the Reading Book Fair at the PTA Christmas Fayre:

On **Friday 8th December**, when the PTA are holding the Christmas Fayre, Usborne books will be joining us to sell books to you. Every purchase you make enables school to order books for our library and book prizes for our children.



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 x 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:

$$3 \times 8 = 24$$

or

$$8 \times 3 = 24$$

**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 next prize draw will be on Friday 1st December.

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 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 29 th November	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 6 th December	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 13 th December	No classes attending Mass
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole school mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 27 th November	Y3 & 4 Cheerleading Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Choir Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 28 th November	Y1 & Y2 Dance club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y1 Stories & Sounds Club 3.15 – 4.00pm
Thursday 29 th November	Y4 Swimming (AM) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 1 st December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Friday 8 th December	PTA Christmas Market 3.15pm (immediately after school)
Tuesday 12 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 2.00pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 9.30am
Friday 22 nd December	Last day of term

Happy birthday to:

Finley H (Y3) and Alanis M (Y2) 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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Year A)



Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us about the kind of person who will be welcome in his kingdom. Can you remember what they did to make Jesus happy?

This group of people fed Jesus when he was hungry, gave him a drink when he was thirsty. They welcomed him when he was a stranger and lonely, they gave him clothes when he didn't have any. They visited him when he was sick and in prison.

But how do they feel and what do they say when they hear all this? They are very surprised and they ask Jesus when it was that they did all these things.

What does Jesus answer? He says, "when you did this to the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me." What do you think this means?

We are all God's children. And so Jesus is our brother. We are all brothers and sisters – members of one big global family. And Jesus is saying that he is in each one of us. And so every time we help someone else, every time we treat someone kindly, welcome them or share with them, then we are doing this to Jesus.

Can you think of a time when you have done one of these things? When have you given food to someone hungry or a drink to someone thirsty? When have you welcomed someone or given someone in need some clothes? When have you visited someone who is sick or in prison? Or when someone shared with, welcomed or cared for you? How did you feel?

Jesus always encouraged people to see others as brothers and sisters just as he did. And, if Jesus is in every person and we are all brothers and sisters, how do you think we should treat each other?

Our Catholic Mission:

This week, let's all try to remember that Jesus is in every person and to treat people as Jesus wants us to. Let's try to help those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely and sick.

What will you do this week to help them?

Prayer:

Christ Jesus,

help us to see you in every one of our brothers and sisters around the world and move us to reach out to those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely, sick or in prison.

Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy