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

Newsletter 13: Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents

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

Thank you again for your PTA donations today.

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.

Catholic Life – School Website:

Please visit our school website to view our [Catholic Life Updates](#). Our pupils have been very busy in school making links between their learning in R.E. and their own lives by putting their faith into action. Our house captains and Y6 children lead a prayer club every Friday at lunchtime too!

Advent Gospel Journey:

Please visit the school website to see the Gospel readings for each week this Advent. Please see the suggested talking points and reflections that you could share with your child [Advent Gospel Journey](#).

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 in advance for your generosity.

| Week 2 | Items |
|--|---|
| Monday 11 th December - Friday 15 th December | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo • Conditioner • Toilet paper • Deodorant • Hot Chocolate • Boxes of tissues • Boxes of chocolates |

Parent Survey:

We have set up an online questionnaire for parents to complete to gather your views. We would be most grateful if you could 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](#)

Pray and Stay - Advent Prayer Services for Y5 and Y4 Parents:

We would like to invite our **Y5** and **Y4** parents into school at **2.45pm** on **Wednesday 13th December** (Y5) and **Thursday 14th of December** (Y4) to join us for a special advent family prayer service. 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:

Wednesday 13th December at **2.45pm** in school with **Y5**.

Thursday 14th December at **2.45pm** in school with **Y4**.



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.

Rosary Challenge update:

Well done to Ava, Isla and Tabitha (Y6 pupils) who completed the Rosary Challenge during October. Their certificates will be presented in next week's celebration assembly.



Christmas Lunch:

The school kitchen is providing a Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 20th December**. If you would like your child to have a hot meal (and they do not usually have school meals) 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.

Knights of St Columba Nativity Art Competition:

The Knights of St Columba are once again 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!

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:

$$12 \times 2 = 24$$

or

$$2 \times 12 = 24$$



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!)

Congratulations to the following pupils who won a brand-new book of their choice for entering the reading competition:

Y6: Blake H **Y4:** Aiva S **Y2:** Athena G **YR:** Maya K-S
Y5: Hayden K **Y3:** Charlie M **Y1:** Pleasant I-K

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!

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 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 11 th December | Y3 & 4 Cheerleading Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Choir Club 3.15 – 4.15pm |
| Tuesday 12 th December | Infant Nativity in school at 2.00pm Y1 & Y2 Dance club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y6 Parents' Meeting in school hall – Sacrament of Confirmation at 5.30pm |
| Wednesday 13 th December | Infant Nativity in school at 9.30am Y5 advent family prayer service at 2.45pm in school |
| Thursday 14 th December | Y4 advent family prayer service at 2.45pm in school Y4 Swimming (AM) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm |
| Friday 15 th December | Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome) |
| Monday 18 th December | Nursery Advent Stay and Play session 10.45 – 11.45am |
| Tuesday 19 th December | Christmas Crafts Day |
| 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 |
| Friday 22 nd December | Y3,4,5,6 Christmas Parties Last day of term |

Happy birthday to:

Maddison A (Y6), Isla F, Luke H-W (Y5), Chrisler F, Dylan H (Y4) 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

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Today we hear about John the Baptist and how he was a messenger for God, preparing people for the coming of Jesus. What do you remember about John in this reading?

What does he wear?

What does he eat?

What does he do in the river?

How do we prepare during Advent?

We put up a Christmas tree and decorate it. We buy presents for other people and we wrap them up.

When John the Baptist began to prepare the way for Jesus, it wasn't just for his friends and family. His message was for everyone who would listen.

Our Catholic Mission:

We can prepare for Jesus by being kind and generous to other people. And by saying sorry for all the things that we've done wrong.

Can you think of other ways we can prepare for the coming of Jesus?

When you are preparing for Christmas this week, why not think about all the other people around the world who are also getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Maybe you could say a prayer for them this week.

Prayer:

Generous God,
as we prepare for the coming of your Son Jesus,
help us to remember all our brothers and sisters in our global family
and to share your love with them.

Amen.

