



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA

December 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As the Autumn term draws to a close and the festive season begins, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe and well. Our children have worked extremely hard over this half term and have maintained their focus on learning right into the last week of the term. I am proud of the strong friendships and the mutual respect we are seeing here in school.

We hope that you have enjoyed all of our festivities this week – it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back in to school! Families are a very important part of what we do and we are looking forwards to having you all in school more often as we move into 2023.

We did hope that our OFSTED report would be with families before Christmas, but we have been informed the final report will be released after the holidays. We look forward to sharing it with you in due course.

Christmas Events

Christmas Dinner

A massive thank you to Amy and Louise, our wonderful cooks for cooking an incredible amount of food to ensure everyone in school could have a delightful roast dinner together. All of our staff and children had a brilliant time eating Christmas dinner together on Monday 12th December. If your child does not have a school dinner, I can thoroughly recommend it, our team is brilliant and the food is always delightful!

Christmas Performances

All of the children in school worked very hard to prepare for their Christmas performances held this week. We are so very proud of them and would like to say a big thank you to all of the teachers and staff that helped make these events so special. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. Photographs have been uploaded to the school website – we hope you enjoy them.

Christmas Singsong

A big thank you to everyone who joined us after school on Wednesday for some Christmas carols around the tree and some mince pies! Everyone felt very festive and cheery and full of the spirit of Christmas! A big well done to our singing club who led the performance from the stage and to Miss Green who has been rehearsing with the children at lunchtimes.

OLSJ Choir

Our extremely talented choir spread some festive cheer around Lymington last week, singing carols and Christmas songs! Firstly, the children performed at Belmore Lodge, our local residential home for the elderly. They certainly impressed the residents, who were singing along with the children and tapping their feet to the music! The children followed strict protocols to protect the residents at Belmore Lodge, which is why you see them photographed in face masks, though they were able to sing without, as they socially distanced themselves. The children were thrilled to see their artwork on the living room wall of the care home, which they created last year as part of our "bring the outside in" initiative. The children also left a handmade, personalised Christmas card for each resident, which were made by each individual pupil in the school. Then the choir were off to Waitrose, where they sang another full set of Christmas songs to shoppers, to rapturous applause! The children even sang a beautiful (unrehearsed!) version of Feliz Navidad acapella, which was just splendid. Thank you to Simon and the management team at Waitrose who gifted the children with some chocolates and satsumas after their performance. A very big thank you to Mr Ibbott at Showcase who put the performance together and rehearsed with the choir over many weeks. The performances were fantastic!



The Showcase Music "Showcase!"

Well done to KS2 who performed an absolutely beautiful musical showcase for parents in school! Year 3 showed off their guitar skills, which they have only been learning for a few short weeks. Our brass players in Year 4 played some beautiful songs on the trumpet - well done to Adam and Olivia M who also led the 'fanfare'. Year 5 formed our 'percussion' part of the performance, drumming along to "Top of the World" and "Feliz Navidad." And our Year 6 pupils showed off how they can now play chords on the ukulele, playing four different songs! A big thank you to Mr Ibbott and Mr Smith for supporting the children to put on a fantastic show.



Jolly Christmas Postman

Year 2 enjoyed a trip to Poole to see "The Jolly Christmas Postman" at The Lighthouse! We had a very festive journey down to the theatre, singing carols all the way to Poole! Then, we were immersed in a spectacular show, following the Jolly Postman through a fairy tale land. We met lots of different characters on the way as he delivered their Christmas cards, including Goldilocks, Humpty Dumpty, the Big Bad Wolf and Little Miss Muffet! Some of the children even got to go onto the stage and help with the performance! The children were amazed when Father Christmas read out some of their letters - how on earth had he received them?! The children used this experience to support them with their writing in the final week of term, where they were writing in role as elves, in Santa's workshop.



Year 3 & 4 Matilda Trip

Year 3 & 4 had a super time at Cambridge Theatre, Covent Garden watching Matilda the Musical! The children absolutely loved the songs, staging, spectacular special effects and their interval treat! The cast were absolutely fantastic, especially the young actors and actresses who were superb! Our pupils found them very inspiring!

We got to enjoy the Christmas lights of Central London on our way home and spotted a few famous landmarks and sights too.

All the children loved the experience and were mesmerized by the performance!

Blake: "I've never seen anything like this in my life before!"

Ethan: "I would go and see this a million times again!"

A big thank you to all staff who attended and helped on the trip. Those from our other partnership schools commented on our children's impeccable manners and what fabulous company they were. Well done Year 3 and Year 4.



Christmas Jumper Day

Everyone looked amazing in their festive jumpers on Friday 16th December. At Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School we raised **£126.90** for Save the Children. Thank you for your continued support.



Letter from King Charles III

We were absolutely thrilled to receive a letter from the Head of General Correspondence at Buckingham Palace, on behalf of King Charles III. Mrs Jan Hook thanked the children on the King's behalf for their letters of condolence that they had written at the time of the Queen's passing, and passed on the King's warm wishes and thanks. You can see a framed copy in the office!

Spring After School Clubs

Clubs will be running throughout the academic year on a half termly basis. The Spring after school clubs will begin **Monday 9th January 2023**. They are now available to book on Tucasi.

Please do sign your children up if they wish to attend as we have limited spaces. Please come into the school office if you require assistance with booking your child into clubs and we will be more than happy to help.

A Polite Reminder – P.E. Kit

Whilst the majority of parents ensure that their children have bought in their P.E. kits, there have still been a number of children that are not bringing them into school. It is very important for reasons of hygiene and safety that children have a change of clothing. We wouldn't want any of our children to miss out on the fun. Please may we also remind you that earrings must be taken out or taped before coming into school (if newly pierced) as we are not permitted to remove or tape earrings in the school.

In Class

Year R

During our run up to Christmas, we have been practising our Nativity alongside our Advent learning in RE. We have learnt about the birth of baby Jesus and how special the weeks are in preparation for his birth. During Phonics, we have moved onto our Pink Phase where we are exploring new digraphs and trigraphs. We have been spotting these in our Guided Reading books. During Maths, we have finished our final number to 10! We are very much ready for some time celebrating with our families - Merry Christmas!

Year 1

In Writing, we received a letter from an elf called Jingles! He has asked for our help in designing a Christmas tree. We have been working on how we can incorporate lots of new exciting features into our writing and have had lots of fun! – In Maths, we have been learning about 3D shapes – why not test us at home and ask if we can name them! - In Science, we have continued to support the fourth little pig on his adventures! We first supported him with finding a new house, however, now the fourth little pig needs help in finding a tent for his camping trip! We worked together thinking about materials that were and were not waterproof and what the ideal tent looks like. We have had so much fun and look forward to seeing where our learning takes us next!

Year 2

In Year 2, we went to visit 'The Jolly Postman' in Poole! It was great fun and we enjoyed going on a school trip and seeing how to put on a show! We have been busy learning lots about subtraction and number families in

Maths and have had a cheeky elf helper to aid us in writing in role for our writing unit to make an elf diary! In Science we have used all our knowledge on adaptations to create our own 'hybrid animal', detailing everything that they would need to thrive!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic December so far! They truly made the school proud with their model behaviour on our trip to London to see Matilda. It was such a wonderful day and the children really enjoyed themselves, along with the interval ice cream! A huge thank you to the PTA for helping us to make this possible! The children have also been getting into the Christmas spirit during our second writing unit of the term, which will result in a setting description based on 'The Snowman'. They cannot wait to share their wonderful published pieces with you as something to treasure and read as a family at home.

Year 4

In Year 4 we have been continuing our learning journeys across all subjects. We have deepened our History learning about Boudicca by completing a mock trial where one side defended her actions and blamed the Romans while the other were the prosecution! The children loved writing scripts and all fully got involved in the preparation process by creating arguments. In Science, we have continued our practical investigations into electricity by considering conductors and insulators. We experimented by adding different materials into our circuits, it was great fun!

Year 5

In writing Year 5 re-designed Santa's sleigh with a focus on advancing his dated system! They focused on using technological language and cause and effect conjunctions to explain how they have advanced Santa's present delivering routine! In Maths, the children have studied area and perimeter. They have learned how to calculate the area and perimeter of compound shapes and how to calculate the missing sides of these shapes.

Year 6

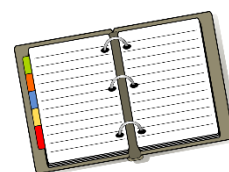
Year 6 have been writing about 'being the best we can be'. We thought of someone who we really admire (this could have been someone famous, a friend or a family member). We then explained the journey they had been on and any obstacles that they have faced and overcome, in order to be the success they are today. We also used quotations and examples to justify our findings. We all found the task emotional and enlightening, it really made us think about how we can also be successful if we don't give up!

School Office

We are receiving a high number of parents collecting their children before school finishing time. Please can we remind you that this will only be authorised if medical evidence is provided or under exceptional circumstances. If you intend to collect your child/children early, please may we ask that you inform the school office in advance so that the proper protocol can be followed. We thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

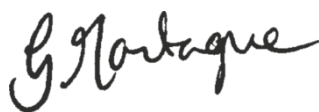
- **Tuesday 3rd January** – Back to school
- **Thursday 5th January** – Y6 Lymington Library Visit
- **Monday 9th January 2023** – YR Pip & Pap Workshop 2.30pm to 3.15pm
- **Wednesday 11th January 2023** – School Council summit for Year 6 councillors at Holy Family SCITT
- **Thursday 12th January** – Y5 Lymington Library Visit



- **Thursday 12th January** – Y1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.15pm to 3.15pm
- **Sunday 15th January 2023** – Deadline for Year R School applications
- **Monday 16th January 2023** – YR Pip & Pap Workshop 2.30pm to 3.15pm
- **Thursday 19th January** – Y4 Lymington Library Visit
- **Monday 23rd January** – Y3 Lymington Library Visit
- **Monday 23rd January 2023** – YR Pip & Pap Workshop 2.30pm to 3.15pm
- **Thursday 2nd February** – Y2 Lymington Library Visit
- **Monday 6th February** – Y1 Lymington Library Visit
- **Tuesday 7th February** – Y1 Pip & Pap Workshop 2.15pm to 3.15pm
- **13th February – 17th February** - Spring half-term
- **Thursday 2nd March 2023** – World Book Day
- **Wednesday 22nd March 2023** – School Photos

Thank you to all of our school community for their support so far this academic year. We really appreciate working so closely with parents and always hold children at the centre of all decisions made. Once again have a lovely Christmas break and the Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School staff look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023!**

Best Wishes,



Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher



Merry
Christmas