



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome to our November newsletter! We are moving into our second half of the term and the children are all working extremely hard. Within this newsletter details of Christmas performances, pantomimes, Christmas celebrations and more will follow. The weather is starting to get very cold, so please remember to bring coats into school for play and lunch times!

Lest we forget

A two-minute silence was held at 11 o'clock on Friday, 10th November. We offered our prayers for all who serve, or have served, in the forces and their families. The children also made some beautiful poppies which were display outside the school office.



Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

In November Year R have been learning lots of new things! In writing, we had a bike focus where some of us brought in our own bikes from home and then we created our dream bike. We have also learnt about the Brown Bear story and created our own characters and the We're Going on a Bear Hunt story where we created a map around the Year R outside area and classroom. In Maths, we have continued our number work focusing on careful counting and number recognition. In Science, we have learnt about different materials and had a focus on our sense of sight. In Art, we have enjoyed learning about colour mixing and printing. We have been developing our 2paint programme skills in ICT. In RE, we have enjoyed meeting Sofia the sloth, Sid the sheep, Patiriki the penguin and DJ the dolphin - some of the CST characters.

Year 1

In November Year 1 have been learning about: Writing- In writing we have been making a lost poster for the penguin in the Lost and Found story. We have included many exciting features including conjunctions, verbs, and similes. Maths- We have been looking at problem-solving, considering how we can work systematically. We have been using both comparative bar models and part-part whole models to support our explanations. Science- We received a letter from the 4th little pig who

needs help in finding suitable materials for building a house. We have been working scientifically, planning experiments, and making predictions. Art- In Art, we have moved on to painting. We have been exploring the 3 primary colours and how we can mix these colours to create secondary colours. We have really enjoyed our learning this month and look forward to next term.

Year 2

After half term Year 2 read 'The day the crayons quit' and have subsequently been learning how to write effective letters. This week they have been writing wonderful letters from our broken classroom resources. They have really empathised with the chairs, rulers and pencils and have been extra careful to look after the resources in the classroom as a result!

Year 3

In maths year 3 have been building on our knowledge of addition and subtraction using formal written methods. We have been learning how to regroup to the next column if we have too many or borrowing for next door if we don't have enough. In writing we have used our formal voices to invite our victims to a luxury weekend away with an evil twist! In Science we have researched why we have muscles and skeletons and the names of key bones and muscles. We explored the significant story of Walter Tull's life in history and considered what we can learn from his inspiring story. In RE this half term, we are exploring Advent and what we can learn from Mary, her faith and her actions.

Year 4

In year 4, we have been busily enjoying our topics for this term. In history, we have been immersed and fascinated by the Romans. We have found out about who the Romans were and why they came to Britain. We have written letters to Emperor Claudius offering our opinion on whether we should invade Britain or not. In Science, we have been learning all about electricity. We have created working circuits and began to think about and consider how they work. In English, we are writing recounts about a disaster scenario which happens and requires a superhero to save the day. Our inspiration for this is Star Lad from the brilliant books My Brother is a Superhero.

Year 5

We have been creating a speech about the ocean. They created awe and wonder by including facts about the mystery, magic and importance of the ocean. They also have created a feeling of sadness and anger by outlining the huge problems we currently have with our ocean. In maths, the children have been working on multiplication. They have built on skills that they learnt last year such as the 3x1 formal multiplication method. They have then advanced to 4x1 formal method and 4x2 long multiplication method!

Year 6

In History, Year 6 have been looking at the cost of WW2. There were many more casualties than we previously thought. 1. Agriculture in all the occupied countries suffered heavily from the destruction of facilities and farm animals, the lack of machinery and fertilizers, and the drain on manpower. 2. Transport systems were completely disrupted by the destruction. 3. The money cost to governments involved has been estimated at more than \$1,000,000,000,000. 4. There were an estimated 21,000,000 refugees. 5. Sixty million people died. We are going to continue investigating the effect the war had on different people this half term.

Showcase Musical Concerts

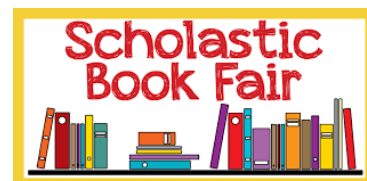
Showcase invited our Year 3&4 parents to watch a small musical concert to celebrate the children's progress in their instrumental lessons this term. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to hear your child/children play some wonderful music on Monday 27th November.

Our Year 5&6 musical concert will be held on **Monday 4th December at 2.45pm**. The Year 5&6 team looks forward to seeing you and sharing the musical experience with you.

Our Year 1&2 musical concert will be held on **Tuesday 5th December at 2.45pm**. The Year 1&2 team looks forward to seeing you and sharing the musical experience with you.

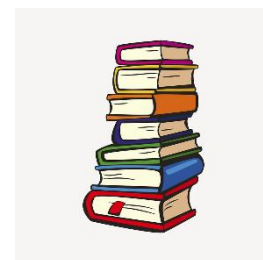
Scholastic Book Fair

From Tuesday 21st November until Tuesday 28th November our school welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair into our school. Thank you for your support of the Book Fair, this helps our school to continue purchasing new books and resources and we hope that it continues to encourage our pupils to keep reading!



Reading Ambassador Trip to Central Library

On Monday 20th November, our ambassadors from all five partnership schools met with Southampton Library Service staff who gave them a fantastic insight into the role of a librarian, how the library works and the organisation that goes into Southampton's libraries. All ambassadors returned to Mansel Park to discuss ideas for our partnerships libraries. They all worked incredibly hard and had an amazing time!



Christmas Countdown

We have lots of exciting Christmas celebrations to look forward to. Please find below an outline of the upcoming events.

Pantomime time - Oh yes it is!

Friday 1st December – Year R, 1 & 2 – Panto (in school hall)

Tuesday 12th December - Year 5 & 6 - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower

Thursday 14th December – Year 3 & 4 – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Mayflower



Phase Christmas celebrations & decorations

Children will be singing their favourite Christmas songs and sharing some of their work outcomes from this half term. Due to hall space restrictions, a maximum of two adults per child can be accommodated at these events and no ticket will be required.

Monday 11th December – Years 4, 5 & 6 - 9am (School hall)

Monday 11th December – Years 1, 2 & 3 - 2.15pm (School hall)

Tuesday 12th December – Years R – 2.30pm (YR Classroom)

Christmas Discos

After the success of the discos held at the end of the last academic year, we are pleased the PTA can offer a Christmas celebration disco, on Wednesday 13th December. Letters and invitations have been sent out to parents, tickets will cost £2.50. Each disco will take place from 3.30 – 4.45. Please ensure you have completed a permission slip and return it to the PTA.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 13th December, our kitchen staff will be preparing a delicious meal for us all to enjoy together. Ordering information for Christmas lunch has been sent out.

Christmas jumper day

We thank you in advance for your donations towards our charity efforts. This year we would like to kindly request tinned food donations that will be donated to those in need at this time of year. This negates the needs for the usual £1 donation on Christmas jumper day on Friday 15th December.

Dates for your Diary

- Friday, 1st December – Year R, 1 & 2 Pantomime (School Hall)
- Monday, 4th December - Year 5 & 6 Music Showcase 2.45pm
- Tuesday, 5th December - Year 1 & 2 Music Showcase 2.45pm
- Tuesday, 5th December – Choir at Waitrose 5.30pm
- Tuesday, 5th December – PTA Christmas Wrap Room
- Thursday, 7th December – NO Nightingales
- Thursday, 7th December – Coffee morning
- Thursday, 7th December – Church Carols – all children to be collected from the Church 3.15pm
- Friday, 8th December – INSET day
- Monday, 11th December – Year 4, 5 & 6 Phase Christmas Celebration 9am (School Hall)
- Monday, 11th December – Year 1, 2 & 3 Phase Christmas Celebration 2.15pm (School Hall)
- Tuesday, 12th December - Year R Phase Christmas Celebration 2.30pm (In class)
- Tuesday, 12th December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Wednesday, 13th December – NO Nightingales
- Wednesday, 13th December – Christmas Dinner Day
- Wednesday, 13th December - PTA Disco 3.30pm to 4.30pm
- Thursday, 14th December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Friday, 15th December – Non Uniform (Christmas Jumper) Day
- Christmas Break
- Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 – Back to school
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications
- Monday, 22nd January 2024 – Year 5 Bikeability (day 1)
- Tuesday, 23rd January 2024 – Year 5 Bikeability (day 2)

