



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA
Head of School: Sarah Hendricks

December 2023 Newsletter

*God in our hearts, Love in our words,
Family in our actions*



*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Luke 2:7

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023. It has been a busy year and, as always, our children and families have astounded me with their work, support, determination and positivity! At this very special time of year it is so important to pause and take time to reflect.

At Christmas time we delight again to hear the story of the journey to Bethlehem, the song of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and their joy as they found Jesus in the manger. But lest we forget he was born to poverty, we remember at this season all who are hungry or cold. Lest we forget he became a refugee, we remember now the stranger and the lonely among us. Lest we forget he felt the pain of life and death, we remember now those who are ill, or anxious, or bereaved. And because we know he came for our salvation, let us, in heart and mind, go once again to Bethlehem, to hear the message of the angels and worship a fresh Son of God.

Curriculum and Learning

Year R

Year R have been busy exploring science! The children have enjoyed learning about ice and the process of freezing and melting. The children thought of their own questions they'd like to find out about ice before carrying out their experiments. What incredibly curious minds we are so fortunate to teach daily. We hope you continue to discuss and explore freezing and melting at home also.

Year 1 & 2

Did you know that in Year 1 and 2, we received a letter from Elf Jingle! He asked if we would help him with a range of different tasks. He was quite perplexed and we were able to showcase to him how to sequence events using exciting adjectives, verbs, and adverbs! In Maths, we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We have been thinking about their properties and where we might see them in everyday objects. This can sometimes be easy or challenging, depending on the object! We hope you have the same enjoyment at home finding and locating shapes! We have also been working hard with our nativity performance! We have had lots of fun and look forward to our learning next year. What a fabulous start we have had.

Year 3

Year 3 having been working hard in reading on performance skills for our Nativity. We have made sure we know all our lines well, so that we can read or say them clearly. In Maths we have started to focus on times tables and how we can use them to multiply bigger numbers. We are using The Snowman in writing, to create a magical, Christmas setting description. We have learnt about the importance of Mary within RE and when reflecting during Collective Worship. We hold her in our minds during this special time of Advent.

Year 4

The children have created some quite interesting and well thought through superhero recounts inspired by Star lad. They made their own disaster scene and considered how a hero can help to save the day. This was written as a recount with a tone a bit like that from a newspaper report about it. The children enjoyed creating the disaster and the hero. In Maths, we are learning about multiplication. We have been completing lots of mental times table practice as it is so important and everyone has improved since September. We are also learning strategies for written multiplication. This term we are tearing all about colour and Tone. We have studied Kandinsky's work and created pieces using geometric shapes, bright, bold colours and concentric circles.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard on their inference skills this term. They have been finding clues in the text and using the context of the text to make a clever guess. This has helped them to identify words that might be unfamiliar with them and unpick the characters' feelings and emotions. In Maths, the children have been working hard on division. They have studied the close relationship it has with

multiplication and the language that links to it. They have practised this skill in raw number and in problem solving form.

Year 6

Year 6 have been painting their chosen WW2 'icon' in art. We have considered what the icon has experienced through WW2 and how we can represent the old, worn look, through the exploration of different paints and then combining this with lots of other resources!

Investigating the results of mixing various medias has been really exciting and surprising! We are really looking forward to our final result!



Christmas Nativity Performances

We were delighted to welcome so many of our parents into school to watch the children in their Christmas performances. I think you will all agree each and every pupil shone in their own special way. A big thank you to all the staff that spent weeks organising and helping the children rehearse to make it a spectacular show for us all to enjoy!

Christmas Pantomime

Lots of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children had a truly magical time visiting The Mayflower theatre to watch this year's pantomime, 'Snow White and the seven Dwarves'. All the children were really well behaved and absolutely loved the show. It is such a special trip and a really lovely way to end the term. Not to be left out, Year R, 1 and 2 had a visit from A Christmas Carol who put on a wonderfully enjoyable performance for the children, in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to Louise and her team of wonderful cooks for creating lovely fresh food every day for our children and staff! Christmas dinner was delicious this year, as always! All the staff and children had a wonderful time eating their delicious Christmas lunch.

Christmas Jumper Day

All of the children and staff looked wonderful in their festive jumpers on Christmas Jumper day on 15th December. Thank you to all the families who sent in a donation for the local food bank, your continued support is very much appreciated.



School start time and gate closing time reminder

As you are aware, the school start time is 8.30am. For clarity, this means that children are registered at 8.30am with lessons beginning promptly afterwards. It is imperative that children are in class, ready to learn by 8.30am.

With this in mind, all of the external school gates will be locked at 8.35am. Any families that are late will have to enter the school via the main office.

A Polite Reminder – P.E kits

Whilst the majority of parents make sure that their children have bought in their P.E. kits, there have still been a number of children that have not bought them into school. During P.E. and after school clubs 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.

The P.E. days for each year group are as follows:

Monday: Year 1

Thursday: Year 3 & 4

Tuesday: Year 5

Friday: Years R and 2

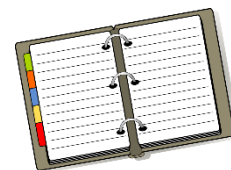
Wednesday: Year 6

Pupils are required to bring plimsolls or trainers and a pair of navy blue or black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms to school, with a yellow P.E. t-shirt in a drawstring bag, clearly marked with their name on. As with all school uniform, it is essential children have the correct clothing to ensure it is fit for purpose as well as smart. Thank you for your continued support.

After School Clubs

Clubs will be running throughout the academic year on a half termly basis. The spring term after school clubs will begin Monday 8th January 2023. Please sign your children up on tucasi if they wish to attend as we have limited spaces.

Dates for your Diary



- Friday, 15th December - Break up for Christmas holidays
- Tuesday, 2nd January – Back to school
- Thursday, 4th January – Coffee morning
- Thursday, 4th January – Hampshire Fire & Rescue Visit
- Thursday, 11th January – 9am Christmas Mass with parents
- Monday, 15th January – Deadline for Year R applications
- Monday, 22nd January – Year 5 Bikeability Day 1
- Tuesday, 23rd January – Year 5 Bikeability Day 2
- Thursday, 1st February – Coffee morning
- Friday, 9th February – Non Uniform day
- Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February - Half term
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th July – Little Canada Residential - Year 6.

And finally...

I am so proud of every member of our school community. There has been so much hard work and joy this term. Our children have been absolutely wonderful to work with. It has been a privilege to lead our hardworking, dedicated school family.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday and a wonderful New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The script is cursive and fluid.

Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hendricks". The script is cursive and fluid.

Sarah Hendricks
Head of School