



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 13: Friday 6th December 2024

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

Thank you in abundance to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre last Friday, whether it be through your generous donations or attending the event or both. It was a sensational evening, providing the children and our families with some fabulous festive fun, games, prizes and treats. These events are entirely reliant on your generous donations and willingness to help and we are absolutely overwhelmed with the amount of donations received in the run up to the fayre - thank you. A huge thank you as well to all of the PTA who have worked so hard to plan, decorate and prepare for the event, as well as all of the staff and volunteers who gave up their time to support on the day! We had a beautiful, festive atmosphere around school. We look forward to letting you know how much was raised and all about the plans for the improvements we would like to make with some of the funding.

Our Advent preparations have continued this week. We have thought about Jesus' message in this week's Gospel, asking us to pray and treat others with love and respect. We lit the first candle on our Advent wreath - thinking about the meaning of hope and being a beacon of hope for others. We linked this to Pope Francis' 2025 Year of the Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope, an invitation to place our hope in God's love for us and to share His love with others.

As part of our outreach to the community, we are supporting the Thomas Project again this Christmas. They are giving Christmas gifts to children and families who do not have much at Christmas. If you would like to donate a gift, please could you send it in to school by Friday 13th. Please note that this year, they would like the presents to be unwrapped. Thank you for your support with this worthwhile initiative from our Mini Vinnies.

Well done, also, to our children who have been involved in Confessions this week. They were very reverent, embracing the peace of mind and soul afterwards. Thank you to Fr. Ramesh who is supportive and encouraging of our children, guiding them in faith.

In other news, Y1 have thoroughly enjoyed their falconry day, learning all about the birds of prey and getting to hold these beautiful creatures. EYFS have also enjoyed a fun packed Disney day today. It was wonderful to see the children excited and engaged in all of the fun activities.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Kind regards, Mrs Hill

Award Winners

During our Congratulations Assembly today, individual certificates have been distributed for children who have been trying hard with the presentation of their work and demonstrating eloquence and enthusiasm in class discussions.

Our Class of the Week Awards were presented to Y2 and Y6 for being resilient and learning from mistakes.

Our Lunchtime Award winners are Y1 for excellent manners, kind words and kind hands.

Our Attendance Award went to Y6 with 96.6%.

Catholic Social Teachings

The Catholic Social Teachings we are focusing on this half term are: **participation** and **distributive justice**. The children are learning about how we All have the right and duty to participate in society and that everyone should have access to their fair share of resources.

Through the Catholic Social Teachings, we can really focus on putting our faith in action during this season of Advent.





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Notices

- Please see the letter attached from the Mini Vinnies regarding their ideas for putting our faith into action throughout this season of Advent. Instead of sending Christmas cards to all, each child will receive a card on behalf of their class. This helps us to be stewards of God's world by living sustainably and reducing paper and card use. Please also take the time to send Christmas wishes via our Padlet - following this link.
- <https://padlet.com/postbox8/st-mary-of-the-angels-christmas-wishes-2024-mrajrd6p8y8ku4w>
- Next week, we will be on Week 2 of the school lunch menu.
- If you are applying for a nursery place for your child for September 2025, please remember to bring your forms back to school by 14th February.
- In PTA news, a huge thank you to Mrs Fisher. The Christmas Fayre was her last event as Chairperson of the PTA. We thank her for all of her time and hard work; it is very much appreciated.
- Unfortunately, we have been inundated with messages from parents and neighbours about inconsiderate and dangerous parking and car engines left running. Parking should be considerate to our school neighbours, ensuring that driveways, pavements and the roads are not blocked. It is imperative that we put the safety of our children first. We are also lucky enough to have use of the Church car park, a very short distance away. Please make use of this. If you have to park on Weston Crescent, please make sure that this is not across dropped curbs and driveways and the emergency services, deliveries, residents, etc. would still have access to the road and their driveways. In addition, some drivers are leaving no space on the pavement for pedestrians, pushchairs, wheelchairs, etc. Please make a huge effort to park safely for our children and sensibly for the reputation of the school.

Events

Tuesday 10th December YR school trip

Wednesday 11th December - Professor McGinty - history visitor for Y4 and Y6

Thursday 12th December 2:00pm - Musician's concert (parents welcome)

Tuesday 17th December - Y2/Y1 Nativity - 9:30am and 2:15pm (tickets will be sent out)

Wednesday 18th December - Children can wear school uniform with a Christmas top or jumper. (Please do not buy anything especially for this - tops with red, green, etc can all be worn.) Children will have a Christmas themed lunch on this day and will take part in some Christmas crafts

Thursday 19th December 6:30pm - KS2 Carol concert in Church (please see separate letter)

Friday 20th December 9:15am - Mass in school
Friday 20th December 1:30pm school closes for Christmas break

Reconciliation will take place in school for Y4, 5 and 6 before the end of term.

Prayer and Reflection

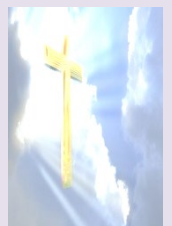
This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.

John the Baptist told the people of Israel to turn back to God and ask for his forgiveness in readiness to welcome Jesus.

Luke 3: 1-6 "A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

*Every valley will be filled in, every mountain will be laid low,
Winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God."*



Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher