



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

**Newsletter No. 11: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Weekly News**

Dear Parents,

We started our week off thinking about the Parable of the Talents. We looked at how we can choose to hide our skills and talents or to share them with others and see them evolve.

Through the parable, Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things and this has been celebrated through assembly and through our lessons and work in class.

Whatever our talent is, Jesus is saying that by going into the world and sharing our talents and using our skills to help others, we serve God. This is a clear link to the Catholic Social Teachings that we are learning about, where we are asked to participate and use our talents for the common good of all.

This half term, we are also thinking about our virtues, 'Attentive and Discerning.' Being attentive takes practice. We should take time to notice the big and small things of each day, to be aware of and understand the responses of other people and to the preoccupations that thread their way through our lives. Teaching children to be attentive is a great gift that we can pass on to them. We are helping our pupils grow by promoting the practice of attentive reflection and discerning decision making.

The children really enjoy the use of the equipment and outdoor games available at lunchtime. We have been looking at how we can provide even more enjoyable activities for children at lunchtime. We have identified that a balance of indoor and outdoor play would further support the children and so Mrs Veness has started an indoor lunchtime club, with a range of games and art activities on offer. This initiative has had a really positive start this week and we look forward to gathering the children's views and additional ideas soon.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Hill

**Award Winners**

During our Congratulations Assembly this morning, individual certificates have been distributed for children who are being attentive to detail in their work, requesting feedback to improve and taking responsibility for their learning. They have also been demonstrating fabulous R.E. and scientific knowledge!

Our Class of the Week Awards were presented to Y1 and Y3 for trying their hardest and taking pride in their work.

Our new lunchtime award went to Y5 for beautiful manners and excellent behaviour at lunchtime.

Our Attendance winners for this week are Y3 with 98.9%. Well done!

**Attendance Matters**

At St Mary of the Angels, we work in partnership with parents to ensure a high level of attendance, so that children can meet their full potential.

Holidays cannot be authorised during term time. Having a week off school will mean your child will miss a great deal of learning. This is over 25 lessons worth of work which will then impact and disrupt the children's learning.

Please also make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, our office staff will ask to see an appointment card or message for our records so that we can code the absence accordingly. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.



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### Notices

- We are sad to share with you that Mrs Hand, who works in our After School Club and our kitchen, leaves us next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. We wish her all the best in her new career venture working for the prison service.
- We have a vacancy for a catering assistant in our busy kitchen. If you are interested, or know anybody who is, please see the vacancies page on our school website or call the office for more information.
- Our PTA have some exciting news to share regarding the Christmas Fayre. This is being planned for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December after school from 3:30pm. It should be a fantastic event. In order for it to go ahead, we are hopeful for your help and support with a few more items.
- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - Y1-6: bottles for the bottle tombola and EYFS - chocolate donations please
- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December will be a non-uniform day for the children.**
- We understand that this is an expensive time of year. We are grateful for any donations that you are able to make. Thank you for your generous donations with items for the hampers today!
- Thank you to our PTA for providing a lovely suggestion box for our front entrance - if you have any suggestions or ideas, please drop in a note.

### Events

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 9:30am Family Mass - Feast of Christ the King

Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November - NSPCC Speak Out and Stay Safe Safeguarding Assemblies (please see separate letter)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Y4 walking to Mass with the Parish

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 1-3pm Flu vaccine catch-up

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3:30-5pm PTA Christmas Fayre and non-uniform day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Y6 Confessions in school

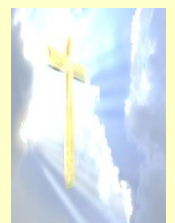
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December: YN and YR are invited to dress as a Disney character. They will also have a party on this day.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Y4 Confessions in school

### Reflection and Prayer

*This Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King which marks the last Sunday of the Church's year. As the year draws to an end, we turn our thoughts to the time when Christ will return as king.*

Matthew, Chapter 25: "And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine. You did it to me.'"



Yours sincerely,  
Mrs N. Hill  
Headteacher