



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

**Newsletter No. 13: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Weekly News**

Dear Parents,

Our Advent preparations have continued this week. As well as busily preparing and rehearsing for our KS2 carol concert and KS1 Nativity, we have been thinking about the meaning of the Advent. We have considered the wreath in terms of the circle shape and the evergreen leaves representing eternal life. We have also discussed the colours of the candles, with the second candle symbolising faith. We have been thinking about how we can prepare ourselves and become closer to Jesus during this penitential time.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our Advent donations on the gateway. We have currently raised £229. This money will be sent to St Joseph's School, Nechells, who will use it for Christmas gifts for their children. Once again, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Following up on the success of the Christmas Fayre last week, we are thrilled to share with you the fantastic profit raised - £2,193.52. This is an extraordinary amount and the largest amount raised since 2016. Again, this wouldn't have happened without all of the hard work of everyone involved and once again is a tribute to the generosity and support within the St Mary of the Angels family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those currently affected by the Strep A bacterial infection. Although contextually, the likelihood of children being severely affected by this is incredibly slim, we are remaining vigilant in school and promoting good hand and respiratory hygiene. We hope you found the information sent separately yesterday regarding the infection, reassuring and helpful.

Have a wonderful weekend.  
Kindest regards, Mrs Hill

Here is the beautiful tree decorated by the School Council, ready for the Christmas Tree Festival in Aldridge at the weekend. It will be held at Aldridge Methodist Church if you want to take a look!



**Award Winners**

During our Congratulations Assembly this morning, individual certificates have been distributed for children who have been taking an active role in their faith, showcasing their science knowledge and using fantastic vocabulary in their writing.

Our Class of the Week Award was presented to Y2. They have been working really hard on their money work in maths and trying their best in all lessons.

Our attendance winners this week are Y6 with 97.6%.

Our Saints Stars winners this week are St Francis (green). Well done all!

**Live Simply**

As well as continuing with our Advent preparations, we have been revisiting our pledge to live simply. Hopefully everyone has managed to try to fulfil their family pledges or is still working hard to achieve them. The Mini Vinnies have also asked us to think about living sustainably. Rather than sending individual Christmas cards, each child will make a card for a classmate on behalf of the rest of their class. Mrs Hayes has put together a virtual Christmas card to further encourage us to live simply and sustainably, in community with each other. Please feel free to read and add Christmas wishes and goodwill.

<https://padlet.com/ehayes67/r3mb>



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### Notices

- A reminder that term will end at 1:30pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and the new term will start for children on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January is an inset day - school will be closed to pupils.
- With encouraging reading fluency high on our agenda, we are always looking at extra opportunities to listen to the children read. If you are interested in coming into school to listen to some readers, please drop an email to postbox with your contact details and availability. Thank you.
- We are pleased to welcome David Chadwick, a former Prevent Education Officer, to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January who will be leading workshops with Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. Prevent is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. This activity will form part of the children's induction week to the new term and forms part of our RSHE curriculum. The workshop will include support for children in terms of self-esteem, self-worth, empowering them to make safe decisions online and offline, understanding the positive impact they can have on their community, stranger danger, trust circles, radicalisation and how to recognise if something isn't right and what to do about it. All of this will be taught through a light-hearted and fun way which will raise the children up. We do ask if KS2 parents could make a voluntary contribution of £2 through the school gateway towards the cost.
- **Please do not send your child into school with any products containing nuts, including Nutella. We have children in school with severe nut allergies. Some children can have a reaction even if the product is airborne so it is vital that we work together to keep everyone safe.**

### Events

We are pleased to share our Christmas Production dates with you. The Y1 and Y2 Nativity will take place on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - at 9:30am and 2:15pm**. Please do not feel you have to use all of the tickets sent to you.

The KS2 Carol Concert will take place in Church on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at 6:30pm. A separate letter with details has been sent.

**On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, children will take part in a Christmas craft day in class - we look forward to seeing all of their creative efforts! On this day, the children can come to school in school uniform, but they can wear one festive item, whether it be a Christmas top, hair clip or pair of socks.

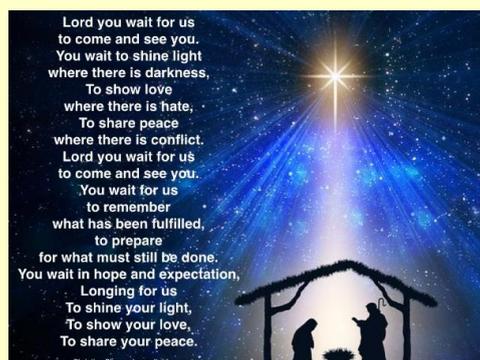
**On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at 2:30pm, some of our musicians will put on a concert for us to enjoy. They have been working incredibly hard during their peripatetic music lessons. Parents are welcome.

### Reflection and Prayer

*This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent.*

*In Matthew Chapter 11, Jesus said:*

*"the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me."*



Yours sincerely,  
Mrs N. Hill  
Headteacher

