



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 17: Friday 20th December 2023

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

We started the week thinking about how John the Baptist recognised that Jesus was God's son, the chosen one, and as such was a witness to Jesus' true identity. When we recognise Jesus as God's son and understand our true identity as God's children, we can become witnesses for Jesus in the world. This means sharing the Good News!

A special shout out to our Y4 class who attended Walsall Art Gallery this week. Your behaviour was wonderful and commented on by the gallery staff. We look forward to hearing about what you learnt and seeing this work followed up in school.

Next week, parents will receive a one-page mini progress report regarding your child's attainment in key areas of learning, including English and mathematics. We hope these will act as a helpful bridge between the information you received during the November parent consultations and information that will be shared later this academic year. The rationale is to follow on from the information you received in the autumn term, share with you some of your child's strengths and achievements, and also some target areas for development that we are currently busy working on in school. We are sure you will also support your child at home with their areas for development. (Please note these will be emailed across in batches throughout the week.)

Our School Council have been working hard to lead a 'tuck box watch' this week and found some interesting findings which they have shared with you in the attached letter. The majority of our children were able to recognise a healthy snack and the letter contains lots of ideas for healthy snacks. Please note that full-sized chocolate bars do not constitute a healthy snack and should be avoided in school.

I am sure by the time of reading this, parents will be aware of the news circulating regarding the National Education Union announcing industrial action as part of an on-going dispute over pay and educational funding more broadly. Dates where schools will potentially be affected are: Wednesday 1st February, Wednesday 1st March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. As soon as we are able, we will communicate to parents the implications of this action on us at St Mary of the Angels. As ever, we thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend.
Kindest regards,
Mrs Hill

Award Winners

During our Congratulations Assembly this morning, individual certificates have been distributed for children who have demonstrated eloquence and truthfulness and who have completed fantastic writing - setting descriptions, recounts and newspaper reports!

Our Class of the Week Award was presented to Y2. They have been working really hard to use their manners, work as a team and improve their presentation!

Our attendance winners this week are Y1 with 97%. Well done.

Our Saints Stars winners this week are St Teresa of Calcutta (blue) with 282 Dojo points. Well done all!

Listening to God

This weekend has been dedicated to a focus on listening to God - especially the Word of God. When we listen to the Word of God, we hear God speaking of his love for us, someone guiding, healing, enlightening and forgiving us. To listen to him is to listen to someone who is the way, the truth and the life. The word of God takes us out of darkness. (Fr Michael)

"Remember this. When people choose to withdraw far from a fire, the fire continues to give warmth, but they grow cold. When people choose to withdraw far from light, the light continues to be bright in itself but they are in darkness. This is also the case when people withdraw from God." (Saint Augustine)



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Notices

- To update you on the fundraising that took place before Christmas, we raised a wonderful £289 which has been sent to St Joseph's, Nechells, as part of a Christmas fund to treat the children. Our Christmas card donations also raised £128. Each class will be having a look on the Cafod world gifts website and choosing a gift to purchase with a portion of the money. We will be thinking about how this will help our global family and support the lives of those families living in poverty. We thank you for your kindness and generosity!
- We hope you are finding the new reading record diaries useful. Before reading a book with your child, please take the chance to discuss it with them. Is it fiction or non-fiction? What genre is it? Is it a play script? Have we read any other books like this before? This all helps support the children's deeper understanding and make sense of what they are reading.
- Please could we ask that children's external appointments, where possible, are taken outside of school time or during the holidays as being taken out of school can be disruptive to the children's learning.
- If you are having a clear out, please email Postbox about any good quality toys that could be utilised by our Before and After School Club and we will get back to you. Many thanks.

Events

Please see the separate letter attached outlining class teaching Masses that will take place this term.

Tuesday 24th January - Y5 attending Mass with the parish

Friday 27th January - Y6 visit to St Chad's Cathedral.

Tuesday 31st January - Y4 attending Mass with the parish

Next week, you will receive a letter about our Science Extravaganza, an exciting showcase event which will take place on Thursday 16th February.

We are still waiting on some parental consent regarding local off-site walks and visits. Please return these next week so that children are able to take part in all activities.

Reflection and Prayer

***This Sunday is the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jesus said, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.'***

Gentle Jesus, compassionate and caring Good Shepherd,
Help me to follow You faithfully.
Strengthen me daily with Your love,
and guide me along life's paths.
Keep me free from every evil,
Protect me from sickness and danger,
and lead me to serve You with all my mind and heart and soul.
Hear my needs and grant me petitions.
Especially these intentions important to me at this time.
Bless me each day with peace of mind and heart.
May I experience Your saving power in my daily life,
As I await the fullness of life and joy with You forever.
Amen.



Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher