



'Working together to succeed, through faith in Jesus Christ'

Weekly Newsletter: Thursday 16th December 2021



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School News...



KS2 Carol Concerts

Well done to our pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who delivered two wonderful carol concerts at church this week. The children performed brilliantly, sung beautifully and read clearly and confidently. Through song and scripture, the children led us through the Christmas story and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. They truly warmed our hearts and helped us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to the staff for preparing the children so well and to our KS2 families who came along to support us on Tuesday and Wednesday. Well done to our chocolate hamper raffle winners, too!

Christmas Week

What a fantastic last week we have had in school! From Christmas Movie Nights to pantomimes– the festive spirit has been truly alive at St. Stephen's this week. The best thing about the week has been hearing the laughter, singing and excitement in our children meaning we have ended the term on the biggest high! Thank you to our families for supporting the movie night, Christmas hampers, the Salvation Army Toy Appeal and our Elf Run for St. Rocco's. As always your kindness and generosity is always appreciated and never taken for granted. Lots of pictures from our Christmas activities are posted on our school Facebook page. Even a little elf has appeared in school and on Facebook this week doing good deeds and is planning a nice surprise for the children apparently tomorrow...!

Christmas Parties

Tomorrow, the children are invited to wear their party clothes to school as they will take part in games and activities in their class groups all morning. If your child wishes to have a school dinner tomorrow, we have a special party box lunch to offer. This is free for our pupils in Reception, Years 1 and 2 due to the Universal Free School Meals Offer. Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who aren't in receipt of Free School Meals must have their ParentPay account credited with £2.40 by lunchtime on Friday if they wish to have a party box.

Christmas Reading Newsletter

This term's reading newsletter is a special Christmas themed edition which accompanies today's newsletter. We have recommended reads for pupils from Reception to Year 6. They may inspire some Christmas reading as a family or provide some last minute Christmas gift ideas. Mrs Bellis, our office administrator, stars in our 'teacher feature', too.

Christmas Masses at St. Stephen's

Father John would love to see our pupils and their families at church this Christmas. Christmas Eve Mass is at 8pm and Christmas Day Mass is at 9.45am at St. Stephen's Church or 11.30am at St. Bridget's Church.

End of Term

**School closes tomorrow, Friday 17th December, at 1.30pm.
We reopen on to our pupils on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 8.45am**

ADVANCE NOTICE – January 2022

We will be holding a multi-sport themed week from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th January 2022. Pupils in all classes will be taking part in daily PE sessions so must wear a PE kit to school each day for the first week back. They must also bring in a waterproof coat and water bottle for the sports activities.

We will be celebrating the Feast of Epiphany on Thursday 6th January with a special mass at church at 9.15am. Our families are very welcome to come along and join us.



We come to the end of a successful Autumn Term where our aim was to return to some 'normality' as safely as possible.

We have enjoyed having our families back in school for events including our class assemblies, Christmas plays and carol concerts at church. After school clubs have resumed, trips and visitors have been organised and our pupils have been applying themselves so well to their learning and enjoying a varied and interesting curriculum.

I offer my sincere thanks to our staff who work tirelessly to support and engage the children with their learning. The whole staff team play a key part in keeping the school functioning on so many levels. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support, feedback and generosity which you provide us with on a regular basis. Finally, thank you to our wonderful pupils. Thank you for your enthusiasm, sense of fun and resilience. You continue to make us all proud and make all we do worthwhile for you!

I hope your holidays are filled with love, laughter and fun. It goes without saying, I hope all members of our school community stay safe and well, too.

On behalf of the staff, governors and pupils, I wish you all a peaceful and holy Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Mr Hatton



A Christmas Blessing

*Heavenly Father, bless our school community this Christmas,
May Jesus remind us how to love,
May Mary remind us how to be brave,
May Joseph remind us how to be faithful,
May the angels remind us how to praise you,
May the shepherds remind us how to be joyful,
May the wise men remind us how to welcome others,
And may we remind everybody that we belong to God's family.*

Amen

