



Tuesday 6th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



Happy New Year! Welcome back to a new term. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. On behalf of all the staff, thank you for your generosity and kindness before Christmas. Your support at school events and kind messages, cards and gifts were very much appreciated.

The children have returned today with big smiley faces and have enjoyed being back in school with their friends and teachers. Thank you for sending the children in so sensibly dressed for the weather - school inside is lovely and warm, but we were also able to wrap up warm and enjoy spending time playing outside in the snow together at lunchtime. The weather is set to continue to be cold over the next few days, please continue to send the children in with warm coats, hats, scarves and gloves. If children are coming to school wearing wellies, please remember to send their school shoes with them in their school bags as it is very uncomfortable to sit down on the carpet wearing them.

Today we started the day learning about the Feast of the Epiphany during our Celebration of the Word. As is customary on this special feast day, Fr Craig visited school and gave us some special blessed chalk which the children used to bless their classrooms for the year ahead. The season of Christmas draws to a close with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday 11th January. The children will continue to reflect on the season of Christmas in their RE lessons and some other areas of the curriculum over the next two weeks; for example, in their French lessons, the children will be learning how the 'Feast of the Kings' is celebrated in France.

Please refer to the dates at the back of this newsletter for important events over this half term, including an opportunity to join your child in their maths lesson.



What's been going on in school recently?

I am pleased to share with you some of the fabulous events and achievements that characterised our school community in the lead up to the Christmas break:

The spirit of Advent was beautifully embodied throughout our school. A substantial number of parents joined their children for our Advent stay and Pray sessions, where our pupils prepared and led the Celebration of the Word with profound reflection on the season. Their thoughtful approach to spiritual preparation was truly inspiring.

Our pupils were immersed in a variety of enriching experiences. Years 1 to 6 embarked on an exciting afternoon at The Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton, watching the pantomime Sleeping Beauty. Managing the logistics of transporting 180 children was no small feat, but witnessing the sheer joy on their faces made every moment worthwhile!

Our youngest learners also created memories. Nursery and Reception pupils visited Tanglewood on Cannock Chase, participating in both indoor and outdoor activities. The highlights for many were enjoying hot chocolate and meeting Santa - an experience that undoubtedly brought joy and excitement.

The festive season was marked by numerous celebrations. Our school community enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner thanks to the staff at Aspens, who provide our school meals and a lot of support from the whole St Joseph's staff team to ensure the hall was feeling festive and running smoothly!

Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils delivered fabulous Nativity performances of 'A King is Born'. The Nativity captured the true essence of Christmas, showcasing the children's talent and understanding.

Our joint school and parish Christmas fair was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout of support that raised an impressive £1,256!

The Key Stage 2 Carol Service in the church was a beautiful testament to our pupils' musical abilities and spiritual commitment. Many thanks to all who attended.

A particularly heart-warming moment was when our Year 4 pupils, accompanied by the choir from St Thomas More, performed at the senior citizens' Christmas party. Their behaviour was exemplary, and we extend special thanks to Mrs Bowen and the kitchen staff at St Thomas More who generously treated the children to lunch afterwards.

Our Mini-Vinnies continued to demonstrate their kind hearts, writing Christmas cards for sick and housebound members of our parish. Moreover, they packed donation bags with kettle meals, toiletries, socks, and chocolates, which were distributed to those in need by The Good Shepherd over Christmas.

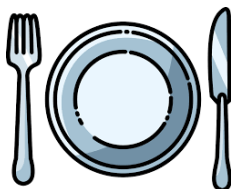
Our Christmas Culture Day was a fantastic celebration of our school's diversity. Seeing children dressed in cultural attire and speaking confidently about their heritage reinforced our commitment to being a happy, inclusive community that values mutual understanding.



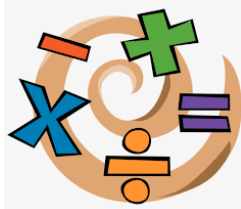
BOOKING SCHOOL MEALS

There is a new process when using Scopay for booking dinners/sandwiches. When booking, a message will appear requesting you to confirm what allergens we have recorded for your child. This will need to be confirmed before meals/sandwiches can be booked going forward. **This will only need to be done once, unless you advise the office of any changes going forward.** The school office staff cannot book any meals/sandwiches on your behalf until this has been completed by parents. Please complete this before requesting a school meal. Once confirmed you will then have access to the standard menu or allergy free menu.

If you require a code to access Scopay please call the school office. Thank you for your understanding.



PARENT 'LEARN WITH ME' MATHS LESSON DATES



Parents are invited to join their children in their maths lesson in school next half term. Unfortunately, due to limited space in the classrooms, only 1 parent is able to attend with each child and we are not able to accommodate younger siblings as this is disruptive to the children's learning.

Nursery - Friday 23rd January 9-9.30am **OR** 2.45pm - 3.15pm

Reception - Wednesday 21st January 9am

Year 1 - Wednesday 28th January at 9am

Year 2 - Thursday 22nd January at 9am

Year 3 - Thursday 15th January at 9am

Year 4 - Wednesday 14th January at 9am

Year 5 - Thursday 29th January at 9am

Year 6 - Thursday 8th January at 9am



Dates for your diary...

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 6 th January	School re-opens to pupils for the Spring Term
Wednesday 7 th January	Year 4 Parent Meeting at 3.30pm - National Times Tables Check information and how to help your child.
Tuesday 13 th January	Mass in the school hall for Reception - Year 6 pupils at 2.30pm. Parents & Carers welcome.
Tuesday 13 th January	Year 5 Online Tudor workshop
Wednesday 14 th January	Y4 Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Thursday 15 th January	Y3 Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Tuesday 20 th January	Year 5 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Tuesday 20th January	First Holy Communion Workshop for pupils in Year 4 enrolled in the sacramental programme and their parents. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bilston 4pm - 5.30pm.
Wednesday 21 st January	Reception Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Wednesday 21 st January	Pep the Poet - Performance Poetry Workshops in school
Wednesday 21 st January	Reception Class Handwashing and Dental Hygiene workshop with the school nurse
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 2 Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Thursday 22 nd January	KS2 Choir join the online Young Voices WICKED Sing-along
Friday 23 rd January	Nursery Learn with Me' Maths at 9am- 9.30am OR 2.45pm - 3.15pm
Saturday 24 th January	School & Parish Family Mass at St Joseph's Church, Darlaston at 4pm. ALL WELCOME.
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 3 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Wednesday 28 th January	Y6 visit to Blists Hill Victorian Town
Wednesday 28 th January	Reception Class visit from the Police
Wednesday 28 th January	Year 1 Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Thursday 29 th January	Year 5 Parents 'Learn with Me' Maths lesson at 9am
Thursday 29 th January	Y2 visit to Black Country Museum
Friday 30 th January	Year 4 Class Assembly - Parents & Carers welcome at 9am in the school hall
Tuesday 3 rd February	Year 4 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Tuesday 3 rd February	KS1 Fruit & Vegetable tasting workshop
Tuesday 3rd February	Year 3 First Reconciliation Workshop for pupils in Year 3 enrolled in the sacramental programme and their parents. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Bilston 4pm - 5.30pm.
Thursday 5 th February	Y2 DT Workshop with staff from Black Country Museum
Friday 6 th February	Year 2 Class Assembly - Parents & Carers welcome at 9am in the school hall
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 5 visit to watch the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 2 to Mass at St Joseph's Church at 10am. Parents & Carers are welcome
Wednesday 11 th February	Year 1 visit to Dudley Zoo
Thursday 12 th February	Year 3 & 4 Workshops with Severn Trent water
Thursday 12 th February	Harmony Big Sing-Along for Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 13 th February	Break up for half term
Monday 16 th February - Friday 20 th February	School closed for half term
Monday 23 rd February	School re-opens.