



# St. John's RC Primary School

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teaching of Jesus*

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 11

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Head's News...

The children have been practising for our Christmas Service and the performances have now begun for the Early Years and Key Stage One performance. So, although life in school is very busy at this time of year, and some staff appear a little frazzled when rehearsals don't quite go to plan, Christmas in school is always magical. I absolutely love hearing the festive songs echoing down corridors matched with the tangible excitement of children trying on costumes, enjoying Christmas crafts and decorating classrooms.

## Advent Art Morning

We have had a wonderful day today and it was absolutely amazing to have parents and carers joining us. The children love it when parents come in (and so do we). We have some splendid art work, which we will be displaying across the school. We are ready for Advent!

## Medication

As a school we will not administer any medication unless this has been prescribed by your doctor. We will always ask you to complete a form to advise how much and when the medication needs to be administered. **"Prescription medication" is defined as any drug or device prescribed by a doctor.** Please do not ask us to give your child Calpol or any other pain relief unless this has been prescribed. The medication that we will administer will need to be in the original packaging with the chemist label containing the information about dosage and the child's name printed on this too.

### Attendance to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	84.7%	Year One	91.6%
Year Two	96.5%	Year Three	94.8%
Year Four	97.2%	Year Five	88.5%
Year Six	96.9%	Whole School	91.9%

## Stars of the Week

This will be back next week

House Points  
**Earth: 425(2627)**  
**Water: 263(2516)**  
**Air: 270(2626)**  
**Fire: 410 (2638)**

190 Days 100%	184 Days 97%	180 Days 95%	175 Days 92%	171 Days 90%	19+ Days absence
Perfect Attendance!	You reached school target!	You are nearly there!	It will be hard for you to make progress	Persistent Absence!	
85% of children who are in school and on time every day will reach the expected standard or better in class	Keep up the great work! The more you are in school, the better your learning will be...	Keep coming to school everyday and on time... You have missed 10 days or 40 lessons...	We are worried about your attendance. You have missed 15 days or 60 lessons already...	You have now missed 19 days of learning or 76 lessons... You may not reach your OLOL potential	Only 40% of children in this category will reach the expected standard in their class

## Advent

This Sunday is the start of the season of Advent, a word which means 'important arrival'. Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

The Gospel reminds us that there is no time to lose. We shouldn't put off our good resolutions until New Year. Now, Advent, is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make any necessary changes.

The message is clear for all of us: we are to 'stay awake!' Pope Francis reminds us, "Christ asks us to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter."



## Nativity Dates

### Early Years

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - 9.30am

### Year One and Two

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - 9.30am Dress Rehearsal:  
Grandparents and the school

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - 6.00pm - Parents

### Key Stage Two

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - 6.00pm - Everyone Invited

## An important message about birthdays!!!

Children can come into school in non-uniform on their birthday. This is so wonderful as everybody within our school community who sees them will know that it is their special day. If their birthday falls on a weekend, on PE day or within a school holiday the child may come in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.

### This week we celebrate:

Angela – 25<sup>th</sup> November

Joe – 25<sup>th</sup> November

Dhathri – 25<sup>th</sup> November

Aishe – 26<sup>th</sup> November

# Birthdays



## Happy Birthday

## Safeguarding

If you have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger, call the police on 999 or MASH on 0345 050 7666.

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

Alternatively, you can email our DSL (Maureen Collier) directly:

[familysupport@st-johns-Banbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@st-johns-Banbury.oxon.sch.uk)

# Early Years Class News

To enrich our Baptism unit, Father Sean kindly visited Early Years this week and showed us how to baptize a baby! We looked at the symbols and joined in with the prayers that would be said at a baptism. We chose the name Joseph for our newly baptised dolly and the Godparents are going to help the parents bring him up wisely in the faith. The children all sat and listened very attentively and asked some great questions at the end..



# Year One Class News

This week, we began exploring our new English text, Little Red. The children impressed us with their thoughtful and creative book reports, each sharing unique opinions and insights about the story. I've loved seeing their fantastic ideas come to life! Year 1 also had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Multi-Skills Festival at Blessed George Napier. We received glowing feedback on their determination to try new sports and their impeccable behaviour—well done, Year 1! In addition, we've been busy rehearsing for our Nativity play, and we can't wait to share it with you soon. As we prepare for the start of Advent this weekend, the children have created a beautiful class Advent calendar. Each day features a special preparation prayer, reflecting how they plan to prepare their hearts for the birth of Jesus. It's a lovely way to embrace this season of reflection and anticipation.



# Year Two Class News

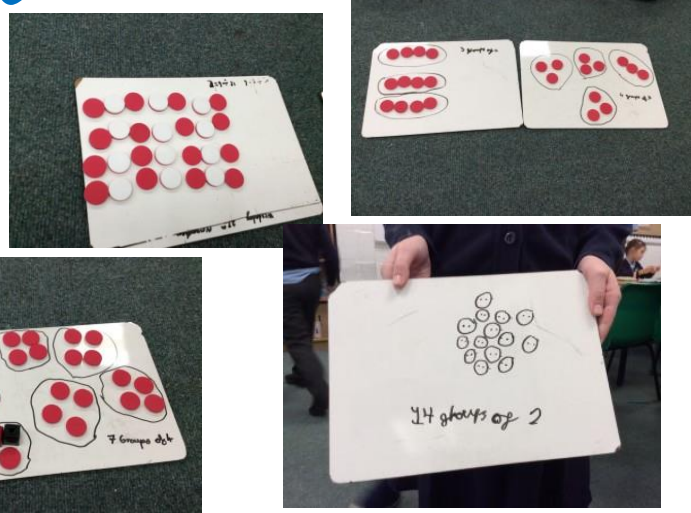
## ♥ OUR CLASS ASSEMBLY ♥

WOW! Year 2 were fabulous in their class assembly this week. I am bursting with pride at how clearly they all read aloud, how respectful they all were and how beautifully they sang our song. We focused on our Mission statement of 'Love one another' and thought how we can share love with other people and the special people in our lives who we love.



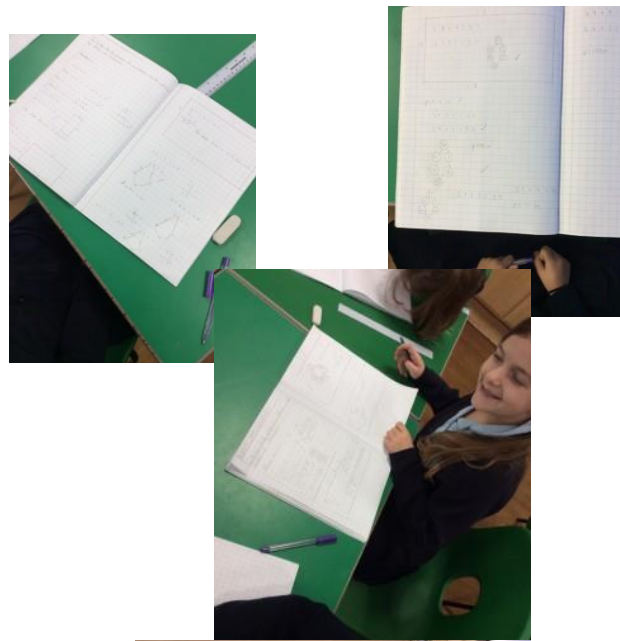
# Year Three Class News

In Maths this week we have been learning to share!  
We have been grouping a variety of numbers in different ways to help with our times tables. Who knew 12 had so many different multiplication possibilities.  
We have loved our unit of multiplication and learning these interchangeable number facts will help us when we start!!



# Year Four Class News

Year 4 have been exploring prayer through our RE unit of learning which is how Jesus teaches us how to pray 🙏😊 We held our own prayer service earlier this week where we read our prayers of praise, thanks and protection to God, The Father, and displayed reverence throughout. We were introduced to our new prayer angel who we held when we shared our prayers and listened respectfully ❤️👧



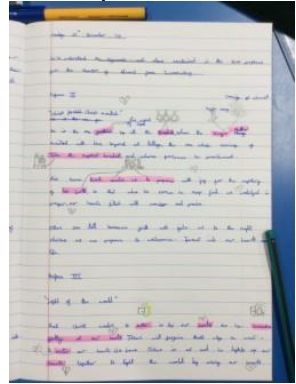
# Year Five Class News

Year 5 were blessed with a visit from Father Sean on Wednesday. He kindly came in to talk to us about an amazing sacrament: the sacrament of the sick. He explained that as a sacrament of healing it brings great strength and courage to the recipient and that mental healing is a big part of all healing. We learned about the vestments, the oil and the various prayers used in the service. Year 5 asked lots of questions and were super polite and enthusiastic about hearing first hand what an important and healing sacrament this is. THANK YOU Father Sean.



# Year Six Class News

Our new RE topic is Advent. We have been thinking about how Advent is a time to prepare for the arrival of Christ at Christmas. We used the Bibles to look up Revelations 3:20 and John 8:12 and linked these quotes to the painting “The Light of the World” by William Holman Hunt. We also researched the Prefaces that are used throughout Advent, exploring the meaning behind them. We illustrated them to show our understanding and had a go at writing our own Prefaces based on “The Light of the World”.



## Key Dates

4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	School begins – School open at 8.45am
6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Whole School African Drumming
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Break the Rulz Day
20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Year Six Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am Reception Open Morning
27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Year Two Class Assembly – All invites 9.15am
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Advent Art Morning
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Christmas Fayre and Nearly New Toy Sale 10.30am – 1.00pm
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Year Four Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
<b>6<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Non uniform Day – please look out for a letter regarding raffle donations</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Year Five Class Assembly – All invited 9.15am
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Key Stage One Nativity Play – 9.30am and 6.00pm
<b>11<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Wear a Christmas Jumper Day and donate £1.00 to Save the Children</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	EYFS Nativity Play 9.30am
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Key Stage Two Christmas Carol Concert @ St John's Church 6pm
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas holiday School closes at 1.30pm</b>

As a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, we have embraced the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile, which teaches the children a set of eight pairs of virtues to be internalised and cultivated - enabling them to grow in wholeness as fully rounded individuals in the image of God. This half term we are:

### *Intentional and Prophetic*

**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

#### **What does this mean?**

At St John's we help our pupils grow by being a school community which is **intentional** in its way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which is **prophetic** in the way it offers an alternative vision of education and the human person rooted in the gospel.



**The season of Advent is a time of preparation. One of the ways we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ during Advent is through reconciliation. How does this picture reflect this theme? How can we be inspired by the lives of the saints to set an example to others?**