



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: 12

Friday 6th December 2024

Head's News...

What a fabulous first week of Advent we have had! Our Advent Art morning was such a wonderful experience, not just for the children, but for everyone involved. I cannot thank the staff enough for all of their hard work and dedication in working with our children. The second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts in faithful waiting, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and ready ourselves for his second coming. This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

Christmas Fayre

We had our Christmas Fayre on Saturday and I would like to extend my thanks to our Parents Association for organising this. We raised £206.00, and this will go towards getting some lights and soft furnishings for our multi-sensory room. Thank you so much also to the staff who gave up their weekend and for the parents and children for coming along.



Attendance to 29th November 2024 (we always report a week behind)

EYFS	93.2%	Year One	95.6%
Year Two	94.6%	Year Three	90.7%
Year Four	96.3%	Year Five	95%
Year Six	96%	Whole School	94%

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Neti, Navya

Reception: Tallulah, Daraboth, Jacob Blake, Connor, Amayah

Year 1: Elias, Catherine, Rebecca Tommy, Miraya, Neso

Year 2: Esther, Leelan, Whole Class Margaret, Elsie, Charlotte

Year 3: John, Inioluwa, Irena Helena, Gracie, Jakub

Year 4: Tukur, Mollie, Kevin Aswathy, William, James M

Year 5: Esther, Jimmy, Sean Aditi, Azrin, Zion

Year 6: Artur, Max, Matthew Ted, Ryan, Emilia

House Points

Earth: 565(3192)

Water: 623(3139)

Air: 572(3198)

Fire: 517 (3155)

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

Preparation

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist calling people to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival. John alerted the people of the need to change some of their ways and to the fact that Jesus was coming.

This Gospel can serve to remind us about the importance of preparing ourselves as Christmas approaches: to repent (to look into our hearts and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better), and to be busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do, loving God and loving one another through our words and through our deeds. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.



Nativity Dates Early Years

Thursday 12th December 2024 - 9.30am

Year One and Two

Wednesday 11th December 2024 - 9.30am Dress Rehearsal:
Grandparents and the school

Wednesday 11th December 2024 - 6.00pm - Parents

Key Stage Two

Thursday 19th 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:

Tallulah – 4th December

Sammi – 5th December

Cian – 6th December

Jesse – 7th December

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

Early Years Class News

In between rehearsing very hard for our Nativity, the EY children have been demonstrating some excellent exploring skills this week- they have been using their imaginations to create habitats and zoos and have been combining materials and resources in very creative ways, in the maths area they have been investigating arrays and developing their counting skills and awareness of pattern and the writing area has been a hive of activity writing cards to each other.



Year One Class News

This week has been an exciting one in our Year 1 classroom! We've had several special visitors, starting with our mischievous elf, Elvis. He's been up to all sorts of tricks and will be staying with us throughout Advent before returning to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We've also been visited by our Kindness Fairies, who have been on the lookout for fantastic displays of kind manners—and they haven't been disappointed! In addition, we've started reading our new book, Little Red. The children received a special letter from Grandma, asking for our help to write a newspaper article to share the real story with the people of Banbury. We began planning this week and I can't wait to see the creative work the children produce! Lastly, we've been working hard on our Nativity performance, which will take place next Wednesday. The children have embraced their roles beautifully, and we're so excited to share it with you all!



Year Two Class News

♥ ADVENT BEGINS ♥

Last Friday, we had a beautiful morning celebrating the beginning of Advent with a morning full of wonderful creativity! We changed the colour of our liturgical cloth to purple and created some beautiful pieces of artwork including stained glass stars, nativity scenes and candles. We have displayed these proudly in our Catholic life journal, RE display and in the corridor too! We also enjoyed lighting the first purple candle on our beautiful Advent Wreath ♥ 🕯️



Year Three Class News

This week in PE with Mr Mawn, we have been practising our football skills. We had great fun learning how to pass to one and other and really focus on our teamwork skills, this will also help us with our sessions with Banbury United. This week we have also been practicing for our KS2 Christmas Carol Concert!! Come and join us on 19th December 😊



Year Four Class News



Year 4 led their class assembly this week on the theme of Advent. We shared with the rest of the school and our wonderful visitors how Advent is a time of preparation. We shared with the school the importance of the Advent Wreath and spoke about the different candles and their meanings. We read with confidence (it can be a bit nerve-racking standing up in front of lots of people!) and sang our Advent song beautifully. It was a beautiful moment for us all to reflect on what Advent really does mean to all of us.

Year Five Class News

Year 5 have been surviving storms in more than one way recently. Our English novel, 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Randell has led us to report some shocking news in the aftermath of a storm at sea, and a shipwreck. Always loving a bit of Drama, witnesses of the event were interviewed about the incident. Two witnesses were quite overwhelmed by the disaster, and gave first hand accounts from the hot seat, while one Mr Charles Maxim told of how he rescued a baby from the waves as she floated by in a cello case. The Year Five avid reporters took notes and front page news is almost ready for print.



Year Six Class News

What a wonderful Advent art day Year 6 had last Friday! We started by creating Advent prayer angels, which we decorated with our own Advent prayers. We also made oil pastel landscapes that featured a beautiful star shining over Bethlehem. Finally, we took time to create our own Advent candles using collage. We are so grateful to the adults who came to join us for the morning, the children loved the opportunity to be creative with you!



Key Dates

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

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?