



St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School  
A Voluntary Academy

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## **Newsletter: Autumn Term 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach our final week before we break for the Christmas holidays, school is a hive of activity. This week we have had two Inspire sessions in school which were very well attended. Our choir have visited Newfield House this morning entertaining the residents with carols and bringing the joy of the season to the elderly and housebound. We also celebrated with many of our elderly parishioners on Tuesday afternoon with seasonal entertainment and refreshments in our 'Taste of Christmas' event.

This Sunday marks the third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday when the pink candle will be lit on the wreath. Fr Mark will also be blessing family Cribs at the morning Mass at 10.00am. Do go along and experience a little bit of 'calm' amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation.

Have a good week.

Mrs Warters



### **A Taste of Christmas**

On Tuesday afternoon the children entertained many of our senior parishioners and elderly residents of Newfield House. This was a wonderful event and hopefully will become a new tradition in our school going forward. We had so many compliments about the children from our guests, and they said how much they had looked forward to, and enjoyed the afternoon.

A huge thank you to the children for making the afternoon so special. To all the staff who helped in any way, especially Mr Ferguson who accompanied the children on the piano.

A special thank you to our PA who helped in the serving of tea and cakes and to Mrs Preston from Vicky's Cups and Cakes who provided us with cups, saucers and cake stands for the afternoon, as well as some delicious cakes.

### **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Tomorrow we will be supporting the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'. In exchange for £1 children may wear a Christmas jumper or, if they do not have a Christmas jumper or T-shirt, they may trim themselves up with some tinsel or other festive decorations to join in the festive fun.

### **Christmas Fair**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this year's Christmas Fair, which was a huge success. Many thanks to the members of the PA, members of staff and children, who provided fun and interactive stalls, all contributing to raising a grand total of over £1000

### **Christmas Fair Raffle**

We have one unclaimed prizes from the raffle last Thursday. Number 618 Williamson.

Please call to the school office to claim your prize.

### **Christmas Party Days**

Nursery, Late Foundation, KS1 and KS2 parties will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The Christmas party for children in Nursery will take place during their morning or afternoon session. On party day, children may come to school wearing their party clothes. Please be mindful that the children will need to wear sensible footwear and warm coats, as they will be going out to play as usual.

### **Nativity plays**

Our Nursery and Late Foundation children will be putting on a performance of Nursery Rhyme Nativity on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 2.00pm

KS1 children will be performing 'Hey Ewe' on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 2.00pm. Refreshments will be available at both performances. All welcome.

### **Photography in school**

Over the next week we have many events that parents will be attending and may want to take the opportunity of taking photographs of the children in the nativity plays etc. Can I remind all parents that any photographs **must not** be of your own child and for personal use only and **must not** be posted on any social media platform. Should this be violated in any way we may have to review our procedures for photographs at these events in future.

### **Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk**

Last Friday we had our Christmas pantomime in school (oh yes we did!) The children, from Late Foundation to Year 6, were treated to a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk by Little Acorn Productions. A good time was had by all. Thanks to all of those parents who contributed towards this event and to our wonderful Parents Association who also part funded the pantomime to allow all our children to be part of the audience.

### **Haircuts**

Could I please remind all parents that extreme haircuts, shaved haircuts, patterns in the hair and the current 'on trend' style is not allowed in school as part of the uniform policy as agreed by the Academy Council. We have had a number of children coming into school in the last few weeks which is against the uniform policy.

### Library Books

All school library books will be collected in over the holiday period. Please ensure that any outstanding library books have been returned by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Holidays

Several parents have requested to collect their children early on the last day of term 20<sup>th</sup> December. If you do wish to collect your child early on that day, they can be collected from 2.30pm. School **will remain open** until the usual finish time of 3.15pm for LF/ KS1 and 3.20pm for KS2. School is not closing early but providing an opportunity for those who wish to collect early on that day. Children can be collected from the classroom doors at 2.30pm

### Mini Vinnies Advent appeal for the 'Well' and the homeless

Throughout Advent our Mini Vinnies are collecting tins, packets, toiletries etc for the Well Project in Haw Hill Park. The Well Project serves those in our local community and it is good that our Mini Vinnies are turning their motto 'Turning concern into action' into practice in our local community. Billy one of our Y4 Mini Vinnies was so affected by the needs of the homeless in Wakefield and has asked that we also have a clothing collection to support this. Please send in any clean adult clothing especially hats, scarves, socks, gloves, jumpers and coats that can be used by those in need in the coming months.

***We will be collecting items for both groups from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December***

### Poppy Appeal

Many thanks for your recent support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We raised £273.24 for the charity in school.

### School Milk

If you wish for your child to have school milk, and haven't already done so, please could you register with Fresh Pastures School Milk UK. The email address for registration is [info@schoolmilkuk.co.uk](mailto:info@schoolmilkuk.co.uk). If you prefer to register by post, please collect a leaflet from the school office. Children who are under 5 are eligible for free milk. However, children who turn 5 during a term are eligible to pay for the whole term at the cost of 22p per day payable in advance.

### Masses at St John the Baptist Church

Saturday at 6.00pm

Sunday at 10.00am – Children's Liturgy takes place during the 10.00am Mass during term time. All welcome

**Children's Liturgy** - We remind parents that the Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word is **only** for children up to, **but not including** those who have started their Preparation for or have already received the First Sacraments.

**Crib Sunday** – This Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent. The traditional Blessing of the Church Crib will also include the blessing of family / home Cribbs. Everyone is welcome to bring their home / family Crib to the Church for blessing at the 10am Mass.

### 100 Club

If you wish to purchase a 100 Club number for £10 for this academic year, please call in to the school office.

The winning numbers from last week are;

Number 15, Isaac EF

Number 88, Emilie Y6

### Gold Book Assembly

The next Gold Book assembly will take place tomorrow Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm.

The following children have made it into the Gold Book this week. We are very proud of them, and their achievements:

**Lunchtime Awards** – Harrison Y5 & Reuben W LF

**Late Foundation** – The Whole Class

**Year 1** – Poppy A & Poppy D

**Year 2** – Lily & Ricky

**Year 3** – Jack & Frankie

**Year 4** – Kitty & Ben

**Year 5** – Harrison & Alice

**Year 6** – Jack & Lacey G

### Diary Dates

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Y1/2 Advent Praise 2.45pm

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – KS1 Nativity 9.30am and 2.00pm

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** Foundation Stage Nativity 9.30am and 2.15pm

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Party Day

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – School closes for Christmas

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – School term begins

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Young Voices

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January** – Gold book assembly

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January** – Gold Book Assembly

### Attendance



Our school attendance target for each class is **96%**. Classes are rewarded for achieving the highest attendance for the week. This is acknowledged in the weekly Gold Book Assembly.

**Congratulations to Year 3 who had the winning attendance for week ending 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

Late Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92.67%	94.00%	96.00%	98.71%	87.67%	91.82%	88.21%

**Our Virtue to live by: Patience**

**I can wait. I have self- control and act calmly even when things are difficult**

**Safeguarding: Should you have any concerns regarding the safety of children please contact the Safeguarding Team. DSL: Mrs L Warters (Head of School) Deputy DSL: Mrs S Spittle Deputy DSL: Mrs D Ferguson Deputy DSL: Miss B Noone Mr K Flood (Executive Headteacher)**