

ST MATTHEW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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24/11/22

Dear Parents and Carers,

November Newsletter

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. This term has been a very busy and exciting time at St Matthew's; it is hard to believe that Advent is nearly upon us! As Christmas rapidly approaches, we thought it wise to share some information and updates on upcoming events with you. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Young or Mrs Traynor-Richardson in our School Office.

Christmas Parties

The children will come into school on the day of their party in their party clothes and they will be in school all day with lunch as usual. In the afternoon, school will provide party snacks and drinks.

The party dates are as follows:

Monday 19 December-Reception, Years 1 and 2

Wednesday 21 December-Years 3 and 4

Thursday 22 December-Years 5 and 6

Class Trips/Events

Reception and Year 1 are visiting Beamish on Friday, 16 December. Years 2, 3 and 4 have a live pantomime visit of Sleeping Beauty from the West Midlands Theatre Company on Tuesday, 20 December. Years 5 and 6 are going ice skating on Monday, 19 December. Separate letters will be following shortly regarding details of these for each class.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Performances

The dates and times are as follows:

Reception Class: Tuesday, 13 December at 2pm

Years 1 and 2: Wednesday, 14 November at 2pm

(Due to limited space, only family members of the children in these classes may attend these respective performances)

Christmas Lunch

This year our Christmas lunch will be served in school on **Thursday 15 December**. As always, children who normally have a packed lunch can join us for a Christmas lunch that day. Children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers or a festive accessory in school that day.

Last Day of Term

We have a whole school Mass planned for the morning of the last day of term (**Friday, 23 December**) and please note that school will finish at the normal time of 3 20 pm on that day.

Chocolate Raffle and 'The Holly and the Ivy Show'

There will be a **non-uniform day** in school on **Friday, 9 December** and children are asked to make a **chocolate donation**. The **chocolate raffle** will take place during the last week of term - children may purchase raffle tickets from their class teachers, at a cost of £1.00 per ticket, from **Monday, 19 December** and every ticket is a winner!!!! All funds raised will cover the cost of the annual visit by the fabulous **'Holly**

& the Ivy Show' on Thursday, 21 December. Children can also wear non-uniform/Christmas jumpers/accessories etc on this day.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas post box is opening again this year next week for children to post their individual cards or, if they prefer, children can just post one card for all their class members.

Christmas Grotto

This year our Friends of St Matthew's will be holding their very first Christmas Grotto on **Thursday, 15 December from 4pm to 6pm!** Tickets are £5 per child and are being sold in school, siblings are welcome to attend and all children must be accompanied by an adult. 🎅 We are anticipating the whole experience to last an hour and you will be allocated a time slot to see Santa. We would kindly ask to keep your child/children moving around the various stations so that everyone gets to experience everything and we keep it all moving! 😊 We also still need some more adult helpers, so please message the Friends of St Matthew's if you're willing and able!

Christmas Crafts

Please note that there will be no Christmas Craft Fayre on Thursday 15 December as originally advertised on the newsletter due to the Christmas Grotto taking place on this date instead. We will inform you as to how you can purchase your children's Christmas crafts shortly.

Little Free Library

We have kindly received a large donation of Christmas books by grandparents of one of our pupils. Many of you will be aware of our 'Little Free Library', which was so kindly made by one of our parents and is situated just behind the 'Be Humble, Be Kind' outdoor classroom. We would love children to take a book on their way out of school and swap it for one that they have finished reading.

Fundraising

We are so grateful for all of your donations and contributions to school this term for both school and various charities. We raised an incredible £173 for the MacMillan coffee morning (thank you to FOSM and our bakers!), had an incredible amount of donations for the People's Kitchen and also have a huge amount of donations for the Age Concern shoeboxes for the elderly. Your kindness means a great deal.

Gifts for Staff

We are very conscious of the financial pressures placed on families at present and would like to help to ease that burden as much as we can. This year, we politely ask that parents do not send gifts to staff. A kind word or card is always appreciated or, if you do wish to donate something, we will be collecting for our local food banks during Advent.

Parish Masses

Fr Saji has kindly invited children to attend Parish Masses. Each week during Advent the following classes will attend Parish Mass. Children will walk to and from Church and we would love parents to attend alongside us.

Tuesday, 29 November: Year 3

Tuesday, 6 December: Year 4

Tuesday, 13 December: Year 5

Tuesday, 20 December: Year 6

INSET Day

On the School Holidays for 2022/2023 you will notice that there is an additional INSET day which still needs to be set for 2022/23. We would like to inform you that we will have **this INSET day on the last day of the school year (Friday, 21 July 2023).**

Road Safety

Please could we remind parents never to park on the 'Keep Clear' yellow lines and to use the paths at all times when walking with children in order to keep children safe.

Reports and Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held on Monday, 5 and Tuesday, 6 December and information regarding booking slots will be coming out shortly. Termly written reports will be given at parents' evenings.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance this term has been excellent and we have had 96.9% attendance this term, which is above national average – well done, everyone! Let's keep this up by ensuring that your child is an Attendance Hero – **H**ere **E**very day **R**eady and **O**n time. Please note that we have an updated attendance policy available on our website and we aim to work closely with parents to ensure good attendance and timekeeping for all pupils. Ensuring your child arrives on time is so important – if your child is repeatedly late, we will contact you to see how we can support you with this. Please also be aware that headteachers are unable to authorise any holidays in term time.

School Uniform

Please may we remind all parents that children should be in full school uniform every day, this includes PE kit. Earrings are not permitted and we encourage pupils with long hair to tie this back. For PE kit, pupils wear their school PE top, school jumpers and shorts/navy blue or black jogging bottoms – no sports branded items please.

Wraparound Provision

Our wraparound provision is proving very popular and some sessions are now at capacity. To ensure your child has a place, please give as much advance notice as possible if you require additional sessions. Please also be aware that, if your child does not attend for any reason other than illness, you will be charged.

Thank you for your support with this.

Travelling cribs

During Advent, we have travelling cribs for all classes – a different child takes this home each night to spend a few minutes in prayer at home. We hope you enjoy spending some time of reflection with your child during this busy season of preparation.

As we approach Advent, we hope that, each day, you find some time to be still in the busy weeks ahead, even if just for a few minutes.

We have a prayer from CAFOD that you may wish to say with your child:

God of light, shine forth,
show us how
to bring hope to others.
God of mercy, help us
to comfort your people
and share in their joy.
God of hope, make us an Advent people,
preparing the way for life
in all its fullness.
Amen.

Best wishes,



Mrs E Alderson
Head Teacher