

### **Note from the Head**

School is lively and awash with the sounds of Christmas Songs being rehearsed, excited children and frosty footsteps on the playground - Christmas is coming!!

Again, this is a hectic time of year and I am aware that there is a lot going on with performances, raffles and requests for donations - please do not worry if you cannot donate or participate in every event - we realise that this is a busy and expensive time.

### **Christmas Parties**

On Thursday 18th December we will be holding Christmas Parties in the hall. There will be lots of fun, games and prizes. This will take place within the school day and children may come to school wearing their party clothes that day.

### **Dress down day**

Next Friday (5th December) is dress down day in exchange for chocolate or biscuits.

### **Christmas movie night**

Back by popular demand is our Christmas Movie Night. This year we will be holding the event over two nights:

4th December: Nursery and KS1    11th December: KS2

These events will cost £5 per ticket and can be booked through SCOPAY. Children will get a hot snack, drink and sweets.

### **Art Exhibition**

On Tuesday 2nd December we shall be holding an exhibition of children's art work from 3pm - 4pm in the school hall. Each class will have created works of Art based on a theme which will be available to purchase for £5. Mince pies and refreshments will be served to parents who would like to come along and take a look at the children's work.

### **Advent Service**

On 10th December I am looking forward to taking the Year 5 and 6 children to the annual Advent Service at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. We will be joining many schools across the arch-diocese and I'm sure this event will be a memorable experience.

If you have any new or unused gifts that you do not need, could you consider donating them for the less fortunate of our Archdiocese. The charity being supported is Nugent and they have suggested that the most welcome gifts which they can distribute this year are NEW TOYS and GAMES. Parents are welcome to attend the service which starts at 10:15

**Friday 28th November**



### **Mass times**

Sunday 09.00 am      Saturday 06.30 pm

**23/11/25 Solemnity of Christ the King**

***Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:37-44***

### **Notes for Adults**

The readings for this week begin a new season of hope and preparation. It calls us to stay awake and ready for Christ. Advent is a time to watch, wait, and live with purpose. We are invited to put aside distractions and open our hearts to God. This season helps us remember that Christ is near, and we must prepare for His coming with faith and hope.

Advent also calls us to live in the light. We are urged to choose peace, kindness, and honesty instead of darkness. It is a time to begin again in faith and to seek God's peace in our lives and in the world.

### **Approaching the Gospel with children**

The Gospel story tells us that we must be ready when Jesus comes again, not just as a baby born at Christmas, but at the end of time. We cannot be exactly sure when that will be, so we must try to be ready all the time.

Jesus tells us that we may be very surprised when he comes. Sometimes people surprise us by coming to visit us at home when we are not expecting them. Or we might go to visit members of our family or friends.

How does it feel to go somewhere for the first time? What would you like others to do to make you feel welcome if you are going somewhere new?

How can we make other people feel welcome? How can we welcome them in our home? Our school?

Jesus asks us to be ready when he comes again. How do you think we can get ready to welcome Jesus in our lives? Is it just about buying presents and putting up Christmas trees?

We can make sure we are ready and waiting for Jesus when he comes by living as he asks us to. By loving our neighbour, sharing what we have with others, being kind, helping one another etc. What will you do this week to make sure you are ready when Jesus comes?

## Forest School

Class 2 had a great time working on crafts in this weeks Forest School session. The children went exploring for natural materials and found lots of sticks! We used our Maths skills by sorted them into different lengths and different widths for comparison. From this we got crafty and creative by transforming these sticks into Christmas stars to hang on the tree. The children had to listen carefully to the instructions and then use a range of materials to construct their decorations.

### **This weeks Forest School award goes to**

Rupert and Kohen in Class 1

Rupert and Kohen showed great patience and perseverance as they collected materials and were able to wait for his turn when using an adult to help. Around the camp fire they both listened very carefully and showed excellent understanding of the rules and were able to toast their snack independently and safely. Well done Boys!



## Posada

Posada is a Mexican festive tradition that we are repeating this year. Posada is a Spanish word that means 'Inn' and we welcome you to host Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus for one night to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. We have prepared travelling Nativity packs for you and your children to use. The packs contain prayer cards, The Christmas story according to Luke's Gospel, candles, a prayer mat, model figures and a booklet to record your experience. To enable all families to participate in this experience we ask that you keep the Nativity for one night only and return to school the next day for it to continue its journey. Thank you for your participation!

## Reverse Advent Calendar

During the season of Advent we shall direct our thoughts in school to those families in need. We would like to run a 'Reverse' Advent Calendar appeal to support the local food bank. To enable the food to be distributed to this in time for Christmas, we will be running this from next week.

Week 3 (01/12): Perishables and treats      Week 4 (08/12): Toiletries.

We know that Christmas is an expensive time of year, but if you are able to, could you please send in an item each week for us to help build Christmas Hampers for families in need. If you are in need, or if you know of a local family in need, please get in touch – in confidence – to Mrs Harrison-Scott in the office.

## Published Admission Number (PAN)

We are seeking to consult and reduce the PAN from 25 to 20. This reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of St John's Catholic Primary. Reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow us to continue to secure high quality education for the pupils currently on roll, whilst continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupils in line with local demand. A letter was sent home giving more detail about the consultation. Please ask at the office if you have not received one.

## Admissions - Applications for Primary and High School places

For families who will require a primary school place in September 2026 the means of application is via Lancashire's on-line system at:- [www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/). You must apply even if you already have siblings at your preferred school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your on-line application. Alternatively call 01772 532191.

### Dates for your Diary

3rd December - Class 1 Mass

4th December - First Confession for those Y4 making First Holy Communion

4th December - KS1 Christmas movie night

10th December - Class 2 Mass

9th December - EYFS, KS1 Christmas Nativity at 2:15

10th December - EYFS, KS1 Christmas Nativity at 2:15

11th December - KS2 Christmas movie night

16th December - KS2 Christmas Advent service 2pm

17th December - EYFS, Y1, Y2, Y3 Breakfast with Santa

19th December - School closes for Christmas break

6th January - School reopens for the Spring term

### Our value for this half term is - Love

The following children were awarded certificates by their class teacher for showing Love to others this week. Well Done!!

Class 1: Rupert

Class 2: Lewis

Class 3: Idris and Arthur

Class 4: Mia



The following children have been chosen by the Lunchtime Supervisors for wonderful behaviour!

Class 1: Arlo

Class 2: Luca

Class 3: Quinn

Class 4: Luca

