

Headteacher: Miss L Ferrara

22nd December 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of our Advent term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate before the holiday ahead.

Advent Mass

At the start of December, we gathered to celebrate the start of Advent in Mass. It was wonderful to celebrate this special season together in prayer and song. So far, the children have helped with our Advent preparation wonderfully in a range of ways:

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity – The children shone with confidence and joy as they performed such a heart-felt interpretation of the Christmas story! It was wonderful to celebrate our youngest children coming together to retell the Christmas story in a way that spread light, hope, Christmas cheer whilst reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

Year 3 HOPE Celebration of the Word – A beautiful start to our weekly preparations. The children sang with spirit and spoke clearly, reminding us about the hope of kinder world as we near to Christmas time.

Year 4 PEACE Celebration of the Word – Year 4 led us in prayer to reflect on the theme of peace. Whilst it provided us with moments of calm and reflection, the children raised the roof with their singing, spreading peace and positivity far and wide!

Year 5 JOY Celebration of the Word – Year 5 certainly brought the joy and led us confidently in reflecting on the joy of Christmas and how we can appreciate and spread this to others in the simplest of actions from the quiet of the snow to the laughter in classrooms.

Year 6 LOVE – Year 6 ended our Advent reflections this week with a poignant and powerful reflection on how we can show love to ourselves and others at Christmas time.

Year 3 and 4 Cathedral Carol Concert

A huge well done to our Year 3 and 4 classes who represented the school with such pride last week. They sang with spirit and energy and I know that anyone who was able to come and enjoy this event would agree that it was very special indeed to hear the children sing so well in the beautiful Cathedral building.

Parish-School Links

We have continued to strengthen our links with Our Lady and St Patrick's Church this term with every class having visited the Church for Mass. A number of children have also represented the school at Church when reading the bidding prayers for a range of Masses including Education Sunday and the feast of Christ The King. Recently, children also handed out prayer cards for World Day of the Poor after Mass. Each class will continue to visit the Church next half term – please see the dates opposite. You are welcome to meet us there and join us for these celebrations.

With Jesus we...
Love first,
Live the Gospels,
Learn for Life

KEY DATES

INSET DAYS – No School

Thurs 4th & Fri 5th January

Children return to school

Monday 8th January

Year 6 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 10th January, 10am

Welcome Mass – In School

Tuesday 16th January, 9.45am

Year 5 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 24th January, 10am

Year 4 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 31st January, 10am

World Mental Health Week

From Monday 5th February

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February

Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass

Wednesday 7th February, 10am

INSET DAY

Friday 9th February

Fundraising and Serving Others

We have held a number of fundraising events recently where lots of money has been raised to help those in need. Our Year 6 Faith In Action Team, along with Debbie our school chef, put their baking skills to work when making and decorating cookies to raise £35 for the Sickle Cell Society.

Mrs Foote's famous Snowman Sacks raised a whopping £250! Every class has been given a portion of this money to choose and spend on CAFOD gifts in order to help children and families overseas in a variety of ways. If you wish to donate to CAFOD further during this season of Advent, please see the poster at the end of this letter.

Our recent non-uniform days for both Youth Funday and Save the Children collectively raised £267. Our youngest children have also visited the residents of Century Court Care Home this week to showcase their singing talents and bring light and joy to the elderly members of our community. We have had lots of complimentary emails from the staff there who were impressed with the children's behaviour, singing and signing and commented on the warmth and friendliness of staff! Well done to all!

Thank you as always for your support with all these events. Together in many ways, whether quiet or loud, subtle or big, we really can make a difference.

Community Prayer Garden

This is officially open! It truly is a place of peace and prayer for our school community to use when our school gates are open at the start and end of the day. Our new tree to commemorate the school's 60th birthday has now been planted with a special plaque engraved with Saint Oscar Romero's symbolic words: *"We plant the seeds that will one day grow."*



Odd Socks Day

We celebrated this day in school with a colourful array of odd socks! We used this vibrant visual as a sign to show we celebrate our differences and are firm in our stance in standing up to bullying and discrimination. The week began with an Anti-Bullying assembly in support of Anti-Bullying week. We talked to the children about what the definition of bullying is using the acronym **STOP** (Several Times On Purpose) and the same acronym for what children should do about it (Start Telling Other People). We have our anti-bullying display located centrally in school to remind the children of these messages and children will focus on positive friendships, types of bullying and ways to seek support as part of our PSHE curriculum. Details can be found [here](#).

PFA

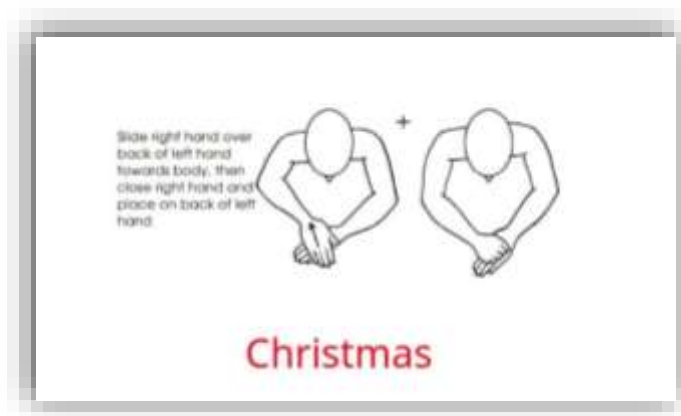
I wish to officially welcome and introduce our brand new PFA. Miss Anneaka Buchanan is our new Chair and Debbie Radford is the Vice Chair. Together with the help of Mr Martin Noone (treasurer) and Miss Persia Cyrille (secretary) and Miss Hayley McWhinney, the children have already enjoyed a Film Night – an ever-popular event which was specifically requested by the children themselves. Proceeds will go towards new extensive playground storage and resources needed for a new, exciting and renowned play project called OPAL which we will be launching in March. More details will be shared next term but for now, if you have any **spare Wellington Boots** that your child/ren have grown out of, please send them into school ready for this new project.

CAFOD Club

Our new CAFOD club began this half term. It supports our school in strengthening the Catholic Life and mission even further and allows our children to put their faith into action in a variety of ways. We couldn't be more proud of the work the club have been doing in learning how to help communities around the world. Huge thanks to Mrs Cotter and Miss Wall who run this club voluntarily in order to help the children serve others and put their faith into action.

Makaton Club

The children in Makaton Club treated us to a wonderful Makaton Christmas Concert. We all learnt a new sign or two and it was fantastic to see the children put their communication skills into action in a festive way. We have a great number of staff who volunteer to support Makaton club – it wouldn't be possible without them all so a huge thank you to them, with a special mention to the on-going dedication of Mrs Foote and Mrs Cotter.



Football News – Commentary by Blake and Janiel

We played Greythorn School twice this half term. In the first match, St Patrick's came away with a victory after lots of great passing, counter-attacking and team work. St Patrick's also secured a win in the second match of the half term. Greythorn played well too – well done to them. A huge thank you to some St Patrick players who agreed to play on behalf of Greythorn to make it a fair game. We look forward to the matches in the new year!

Working With Our Community

Due to the bouts of weather we have had recently and are due to have in the months ahead, traffic can be particularly difficult within the village of Wilford during busy school drop off and collection times. The residents of Wilford kindly ask that extra care is taken when driving through the village at a safe speed and without mounting the pavements.

Warm Home Discount

With the cost of living crisis and higher than usual energy bills at this time of the year, you may benefit from applying for the Government Warm Home Discount scheme [here](#).

INSET Days and Dates

Please make a note of useful dates detailed within this newsletter. Please also find the INSET day dates for this academic year in the date column on the previous page.

We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Monday 8th January** and seeing you at our Welcome Mass on **Tuesday 16th January** if you are able to join us.

Thank you once again for all your support this term. From us all at St Patrick's, we wish our children and families a very happy and holy Christmas filled with hope, peace, joy and love.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara



ADVENT

Missionary Discipleship



SCAN THE QR CODE AND FOLLOW THE
INSTRUCTIONS TO PURCHASE A CAFOD
WORLD GIFT