



Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 13: Thursday 4th December 2025

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

Our Advent preparations have started this week. We have thought about the message in this week's Gospel - how we are getting ready to welcome Jesus. We are invited to make sure that we are ready and waiting for Jesus by living as he asks us to. By loving our neighbour, sharing what we have with others, being kind and helping one another.

This links seamlessly with our key learning behaviour theme this half term, which is collaboration. Children are being taught the importance of working together and treating others as we would like to be treated.

We lit the first candle on our Advent wreath - thinking about the meaning of hope and being a beacon of hope for others. We linked this to the 2025 Year of the Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope, an invitation to place our hope in God's love for us and to share His love with others. We have been celebrating this special Jubilee year in school and have been reflecting on it as it comes to a close in January.

As part of our outreach to the community and putting our faith into action, we are supporting the Thomas Project again this Christmas. They are giving Christmas gifts to children and families who do not have much at Christmas. If you would like to donate a gift, please could you send it in to school by Thursday 11th December. Please note that this year, they would like the presents to be unwrapped. Thank you for your support with this worthwhile initiative from our Mini Vinnies. The Mini Vinnies have also set up a Padlet link for families and friends to add messages and good wishes to. Please see the letter from them attached with more details and the link below:

<https://padlet.com/postbox8/christmas-wishes-and-prayers-to-all-sma-families-4quqztr7pw7987cq>

We understand this is a very busy and expensive time of year. Thank you so much again today for all of your generous donations for the PTA Christmas Fayre which takes place next week.

Thank you, also, to Nursery and Reception parents who took part in our parent workshops over the last couple of weeks. We are sure that you found them informative and worthwhile.

Year Two have been getting into the Christmas spirit this week. They walked over to Aldridge on Tuesday to take part in 'Christmas through the Keyhole.' - A fun, multi-sensory, interactive trail that gave them a glimpse into the meaning of the Nativity.

We are fortunate that Bishop Timothy is visiting our parish at the weekend. We look forward to seeing many of you at Mass on Sunday morning to welcome him. Please see the letter sent last week for more information.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hill

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is vital for children, - academically, emotionally and socially, You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- Making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality as a life-long skill. Good habits start now.
- Encouraging them to get involved in school activities and sharing in their learning at home
- Not letting children take time off for minor ailments.

The Government have shared some useful information about when to keep a child off school. Please see the poster attached and call our office before keeping your child off if you are unsure. We are always happy to help.

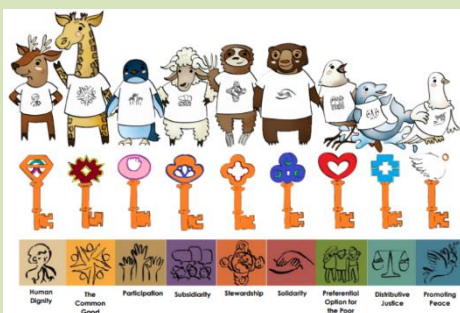
Catholic Social Teachings

The Catholic Social Teachings we are focusing on this half term are:

participation and **distributive justice**.

The children are learning about how we all have the right and duty to participate in society and that everyone should have access to their fair share of resources.

Through the Catholic Social Teachings, we can really focus on putting our faith in action during this season of Advent.





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Notices

- Please see the letter attached from the Mini Vinnies regarding their ideas for putting our faith into action throughout this season of Advent. Instead of sending Christmas cards to all, each child will receive a card on behalf of their class. This helps us to be stewards of God's world by living sustainably and reducing paper and card use. Please also take the time to send Christmas wishes via our Padlet - following this link.
- <https://padlet.com/postbox8/st-mary-of-the-angels-christmas-wishes-2024-mrajrwd6p8y8ku4w>
- Next week, we will be on Week 3 of the school lunch menu. We are offering another favourite that has come from our parent and pupil voice. Thursday's change will be an offer of an 'all day breakfast' and an ice cream pot for dessert.
- If you are applying for a nursery place for your child for September 2025, please remember to bring your forms back to school by 13th February.
- Staff have had online safety training updates this week. We are doing much work in school to teach the children about how to stay safe online and ask that you work in partnership with us to support this at home. Regularly monitoring any app use, checking age restrictions on apps and activating parental controls are all ways that will help keep children safe. This is also a useful website to refer to: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- We are keeping the momentum of Times Tables Rock Stars Day going in school. Learning times tables by heart and ensuring that children can rapidly recall the facts helps support so many other areas of maths. Please encourage your child to utilise this website at home and use any opportunities to ask them to recall times tables facts. (TTRS and NumBots)
- Our PTA are planning a disco for the children to enjoy on Wednesday 17th December. Please see the flyer and pay via the gateway. Thank you for your support with this exciting event! The children are welcome to wear non-uniform on this day. Christmas jumpers optional! This will also be Christmas lunch day for the children.

Events

- Friday 5th December - Inset day (school closed to pupils)
- Sunday 7th December 9:30am Mass celebrated by Bishop Timothy
- Tuesday 9th December 9:30am and 2:15pm Y2 and Y1 Nativity
- Tuesday 9th December YR trip
- Thursday 11th December 9:15am YR Advent Service (parents welcome)
- Thursday 11th December 2pm - Musicians' Concert (parents welcome)
- Friday 12th December - EYFS Disney day (please see class pages)
- Friday 12th December PTA Christmas Fayre and non-uniform (please see flyer)
- Week beginning 15th December EYFS Nativity video will be shared with parents
- Wednesday 17th December - Non/uniform Christmas jumper day Children will have a Christmas themed lunch on this day and will take part in some Christmas crafts
- Thursday 18th December 6:30pm KS2 Carol Service in Church (please see separate letter)
- Friday 19th December 9:15am Mass (all welcome)
- Friday 19th December - Term ends at 1:30pm
- Reconciliation will take place in school for Y4, 5 and 6 before the end of term.

Prayer and Reflection

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear more about the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, John the Baptist. He was chosen by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.



Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher