

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER DATED FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2024

Dear Families

I open this Newsletter giving thanks for all the love and support families have shared on the funeral of dear Mr Adrian Smith RIP on Saturday 23rd November. The funeral service, although incredibly moving, was a wonderful celebration of the legacy and impact Mr Smith had on us all. The community of St John's Catholic Primary School truly shone their light, with the incredible adult school choir singing, tributes to our friend and colleague and uplifting video created by the children. I think he would be very proud of everyone. After the service the school hosted the wake in the school hall and the family felt some comfort being surrounded by his loved ones and work colleagues. On the Monday after the funeral every child was invited to plant a bulb on the school grounds - making sure we live out our mission of looking for beauty and joy wherever we are - living out being a steward of our world. In the summer term we are planning a day of remembrance for Mr Smith which may well include a tennis event and an orienteering competition! We look forward to welcoming families to join us in marking his life.

Over the past few weeks we have invited many new families who are having to choose a Primary school for their EYFS child on tours around the school. It has been a privilege to welcome the families to the school and many have been very complimentary about the learning behaviours and calm purposeful learning environment. If you have friends or family who would like to visit please encourage them to contact the school office team who will be able to arrange a tour with me.

To welcome the beginning of the season of Advent we gathered together as a school family to celebrate the Advent Penitential Service with Fr Richard and supported by the Chapel Champions. It was a meaningful reflection to dedicate time on how we can open our hearts during this season of preparation. After the service children who had received the Sacrament of Reconciliation were invited to confession with Fr Richard and two other visiting priests from Bath. The children were prayerful, showed reverence and were well prepared for the Sacrament - well done to all those children in Year 4, 5 and 6.

I must now mention of course the superb Christmas Fayre 2024! Without the dedicated and committed Friends of St John's team this event would never have happened, we are truly grateful and blessed to have you. The Fayre was a joyful occasion and the children were very excited about gathering together with their friends and families.

It was simply beautiful to see so many people socialising together and building community. Reggie C was our 'Christmas Light Switch On' Winner 2024 - he did a terrific job! Father Christmas sent a message to say how impressed he was with the Fayre and that he looks forward to visiting again in 2025! Thank you again to Mole Valley Farmers for the generous donation of the Christmas Tree - the children play around the tree everyday!

Over the coming few weeks we start our work with the Outdoor Play And Learning (OPAL) team - this will deepen opportunities for purposeful play for all children. I will keep parents updated with how you can get involved in this project and protect the gift of play and childhood.

Two important dates before the end of Term include the EYFS Nativity which will be celebrated in the parish church on Tuesday 17th December at 2pm. Families are invited into the parish centre after the service for refreshments and an opportunity to buy some last minute Christmas gifts! On the last day of term Thursday 19th December the whole school is gathering in the Parish Church at 9.30am to celebrate a Christmas Carol Service. This will be the first time we have celebrated together at this time of year in the Parish Church and all families are very welcome to join us. Once again the parish centre is open after the service for refreshments and a mince pie!

For families that wish to write a Christmas card to the staff team these are always received with gratitude. The children will be invited to post a Christmas card in the class postbox on the mornings of Monday 16th December and Tuesday 17th on the playground between 8.30am and 8.40am. The cards will then be sorted and delivered to the children by our Year 5 & 6 leaders.

It is a busy end to a successful term and the school team look forward to supporting the children to focus on the meaning of why we celebrate Christmas and the joy we need to share.

Best wishes

Mrs O'Rourke

Diary Dates For Term 2

Sunday 8th December—Children's Mass in St. John's Church at 10.30am

Tuesday 17th December—EYFS Nativity in Church

Thursday 19th December—Whole School Carol Service in Church

Friday 20th December—T.D. Day. The School will be closed to all pupils

Diary Dates For Term 3—2025

Monday 6th January 2025—Start of Term 5

Thursday 9th/Friday 10th January—Year 6 Bikeability Course #3

Carol Singing in the Playground

For the last weeks of term we will be singing carols on the playground at home time. Below are the days that each class will be singing their carol. We hope you enjoy!



Date	Class
Monday 9th December	Class 1 and 2 (Foundation Stage Playground)
Tuesday 10th December	Class 3, 4 and 5 (main playground)
Wednesday 11th December	Class 6 (main playground)
Thursday 12th December	Class 7 (main playground)
Friday 13th December	Class 8 (main playground)
Monday 16th December	Class 9 (main playground)
Tuesday 17th December	Class 10 (main playground)
Wednesday 18th December	Class 11 (main playground)



Wednesday Word

Please find below the link to last week's copy of the **Wednesday Word** which can be copied and pasted into your browser. Last week's word was ADVENT.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/advent?pid=MTA101634&v=156.3>

Please find below the link to this week's copy of the **Wednesday Word** which can be copied and pasted into your browser. This week's word is PREPARATION.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/preparation?pid=MTA101634&v=157.3>

We hope you enjoy sharing the Bible Scriptures together with your child.

Birthdays This Week

We would like to wish all children who have had birthdays last week, this week, or will celebrate over the weekend a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Pupils will receive their pencils in Celebration Assembly today.

Pupils

Ivy K

Edmund P

Patrick M

Kaja J

Freddie P

Amy P

Jackson W

Rose B



Online Safety

This week we are highlighting what you need to know as parents/carers about Snapchat and Mental Health and Wellbeing apps.

Please see the leaflets attached to this newsletter.

Lost Property

Due to the large volume of lost property we have in the cupboard in reception, it will all be placed in the outdoor classroom after school next Wednesday 11th December 2024.

In order to ensure that we can return items to their rightful owners, please can you name all your child's items of clothing, water bottles and shoes.

Thank you.

Book Fair

Following a very successful Book Fair on 22nd November, it has enabled St. John's to earn £902.58 in rewards to purchase books for the school.

Thank you for your support.



ASDA Cashpot For Schools

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents/carers and staff who linked their ASDA rewards card to the Cashpot For Schools.

This has enabled St. John's to raise £371.28.

Funds will be distributed by Parentkind to the Friends who registered their details for our school.



Lessons, Activities and Events Taken Place During These Last Two Weeks

