

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs A Harrop MEd NPQEL
Orchard Road
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WA15 8EY

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Friday 25 November 2022

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

ADVENT

Sunday 27 November is the first Sunday of Advent. We will be preparing the children to celebrate the birth of Jesus over the coming weeks. This is a magical time in school and we are looking forward to all of the Advent activities listed on the Advent planner attached.

First Sunday of Advent

Advent is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus.

Today's reading

Matthew 24:37-44

The gospel story is telling us that we must be ready when Jesus comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be, so we must try to be ready all the time.

Today's reflection

When we look around, we sometimes see people who need our help.

Let's remember this.

This Advent, let's look out especially for people who have been forced to leave everything behind to find somewhere safe to live.

CAFOD have produced resources for families to use. Please read about how you can come together as a family to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

CAFOD ADVENT RESOURCES



CAFOD have their very own interactive advent calendar. Please click on the link to see how it works.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-families/Family-Advent-Calendar>



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The CAFOD calendar below gives a reading for each day of Advent.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children>

Attached is the Wednesday Word sheet for families. It explains the gospel reading in a child friendly way and includes good activities for the children to complete.

WREATH MAKING



Why not join our wreath making night on 1 December. This is a lovely opportunity to gather with other parents and make your own wreath. Tickets are on sale on ParentPay now for this.

ADVENT PLANNER

Please see the Advent planner attached. In addition to our Masses, services and nativities, we will be supporting lots of charities. The Mini Vinnie group are busy coordinating:

- Alti Gives Back Food appeal
- Be a Santa to a Senior Christmas card writing
- Craft Club gifts to St Anne's Hospice
- Reverse Advent Food Calendar to Cornerstones
- Francis House collection at KS2 service

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA HOLIDAY CLUB

Our Christmas Extravaganza holiday club on **Wednesday 21 December** is almost full, and once all the places have gone, we will be taking it off the booking site. If you would like to book one of the last few places, please book to secure a session for your child as soon as possible. The children can look forward to an incredible day full of Christmas magic and joy.

We are pleased to confirm that voucher payments will be accepted for the February holiday club onwards. We are currently working to enable this on the booking site and will let you know as soon as this option is live which will hopefully be within the next week.



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CHILD SAFETY AND CARS

We need your help to ensure our children are safe. There have been several observations of dangerous parking activity outside of both the infant and junior departments. We ask that, other than Sunshine club drop off and pick up, parents do not drive down Orchard and Osborne Rd. With 630 school children and 75 nursery children together with very many parents, we have a high volume of pedestrians trying to walk to school safely. We have seen parents mounting kerbs so trolleys can't get past, driving faster than 20mph, reversing into the builders compound and blocking neighbours' driveways. We promote a park and stride route from Tesco where many parents use the carpark and walk to school through the Balmoral gate. We also kindly ask that parents do not park in the junior playground and the area outside the junior playground as this is for staff parking only. We are asking parents to take personal responsibility to ensure our children are safe so that we can all work together to prevent an accident from happening. Thank you in advance for us each playing our part to ensure the children are safe.

AUTUMN 2 DATES LIST

Saturday	26 November	Christmas Fair	-
Thursday	1 December	Infant Advent Mass: 9:30am Junior Advent Mass: 9:30am	Infant department hall Junior department hall
Friday	02 December	Y3 Advent Assembly: 9:15am Led by Y3 Mrs McDuff's class	Junior department hall
Monday	05 December	Reception Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Infant department hall
Monday	05 December	Y4 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal	Junior department hall
Tuesday	06 December	Reception Nativity Play 1/2: 9:30am	Infant hall department
Tuesday	06 December	Y4 Christmas Concert 1/2: 2pm	Junior department hall
Wednesday	07 December	Reception Nativity Play 2/2: 9:30am	Infant hall department
Wednesday	07 December	Y4 Christmas Concert 2/2: 6:30pm	Junior department hall
Thursday	08 December	Christmas Lunch/ Parties/ Father Christmas Visit	Department halls
Thursday	08 December	KS2 Advent Assembly: 9:15am Led by Y6 Miss Kane's class	Junior department hall

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Wednesday	14 December	Christmas Service 6:30pm	St Vincent's Church
Thursday	15 December	KS2 Class Assembly: 9:15am led by Y5 Mrs Maguire's class	Junior department hall
Monday	19 December	Christmas Pantomime	
Tuesday	20 December	School Closes	-
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY			

ATTENDANCE



Please note we do not authorise holidays in term time. Each week we report attendance.

Attendance Percentages	
Highest infant class attendance	Y2 Mrs Burke's class 98.67%
Highest junior class attendance	Y4 Miss Jamieson's class 98%
Overall school attendance	94.58%

We offer an open door to parents. If you have any questions about school life, please liaise with your class teacher. Mrs Farrell (infant department deputy head), Mrs Sutton (junior department deputy head), and I are also available to work in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harrop

Headteacher

