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December Newsletter

Merry Christmas



'For a CHILD IS BORN to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6

Dear Parents and carers,



It has been an incredibly busy last few weeks and school has been a hive of activity! It has been heart-warming to have brought back some well-loved Christmas traditions that we may once, pre-Covid, have taken for granted. We have enjoyed a fabulous last week in school with our final celebration assembly complete with musical performances from our brass band, guitarists, pianists and an original song performance.

We've had our whole school pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast', our Advent Service, Christmas Dinner, Christmas parties and a visit from a very special guest! To see the children's joy and excitement has been wonderful.



The children have been '*staying awake*' this Advent and have been preparing for Christmas through their worships in their classes, in their Key Stages and whole school worships. This year we have created our very own Jesse tree. We have listened to Bible stories all the way from Creation to the birth of Jesus.

We have also focussed on how we can live out our school motto 'in loving others we love Jesus'. We have held 'Food Bank Fridays' throughout Advent, our Year 6 Prayer leaders have organised fundraising for 'Crisis' remembering that when Jesus was born, he was born in a stable. Thanks to the raffle organised by our prayer leaders and your generous donations at the nativity performances, we have raised £450 which I am sure will make a huge difference. The raffle winners were; Ruby (Elm), Raphael (Sycamore), Theo & Damien (Willow) Hannah (Eucalyptus).

Our prayer leaders have also been collecting Christmas cards to be given to members of our parish who may be housebound or be alone and otherwise may not receive Christmas cards at all. We will pass these on to Paul Wyre who will distribute these on our behalf.

Father David has also been present in school to support our Advent preparations and on Tuesday provided the sacrament of reconciliation to those children who wanted it. We are always grateful for his warm presence in school and the chaplaincy he offers the children.

On a very sad note, we have also spent time this week warning the children about the dangers of playing in or near water, especially in freezing conditions when the water may have frozen over. We remember in our prayers those affected by the tragic events in Solihull.

Nativity – A Bundle of Joy!

Our nativity returned to its 'normal' format and took place in the church. The children delighted in their performances and it was wonderful to see them grow in confidence and pride. The dress rehearsal for the rest of the school was eventful; Mary had stage fright, the travellers forgot to travel, the angels had a falling out and the naughty sheep were mischievous indeed! However, by the time they performed for parents and families they absolutely fabulous, full of confidence, in good voice and conveyed the story of Christ's birth beautifully.



Judge Lodgings Trip – Apple & Oak class

Both Apple class and Oak class enjoyed a brilliant history trip to the Judges Lodgings to experience a Victorian Christmas. Thank you to all the volunteers who accompanied us on the day, without your support these days would not be able to take place.



Christmas Sewing Club



Mrs Wood ran an afterschool sewing club which was enjoyed by all who attended. We are super impressed with their creations. Great job Mrs Wood, Anton, Lev, Hamda, Menaal, Georgie, Isla, Elise, Skye and Ysandre.



Reports, Attendance, Lunch Club and Hot Chocolate Club!

This week your child will have brought home their termly report. We, as always, are very proud of all the children and of how hard they are working alongside their teachers. This termly report informs you of how well your child is doing when working towards age-related standards. If you have any questions, please raise them with your child's teacher via email and they will be happy to help. Alongside your termly report, you will receive an attendance report. The colour of the report you have been given either red (90% or less), Orange (95% or less) or green for (95%+). Orange or red indicate that there must be a marked improvement in attendance. Your child's attendance has a direct impact on how well they learn and achieve in school. Attendance is closely monitored in school and poor attendance will be followed up by the Senior Leadership Team. Please make every endeavour to ensure your child maintains a high level of attendance. Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged, any term time holiday may well incur a fine.



We held our termly 'Hot chocolate club' for the best and most improved whole class attendance. This term Beech class had the highest attendance and the Sycamore had the most improved attendance; well done to those classes. We also held our first 'Lunch Club' of the year. This award is in recognition of the children who always go above and beyond in helping, learning and living out our Gospel values. They are nominated by staff who have noticed their 'always' attitude. Well done to the Autumn Lunch club members.



The Friends of St Bernadette's

Movie night went down a storm, the Christmas Chocolate raffle winners look rather pleased with themselves and the Friends provided a special gift delivered by Father Christmas himself! As ever thank you for your continued support.

'On behalf of the staff and children at St Bernadette's, I would like to say thank you to you for all your donations and support. I'd also like to say a special thank you to Frankie Watson for her kind donation of 30 selection boxes and a Sainsbury's gift card. I am very much looking forward to meeting in 2023 and welcoming new members. Happy Christmas!' Miss Taylor Chair of the FOSB.



Movie Night



Chocolate Raffles Winners - total money raised £397



Christmas services and Mass times at St Bernadette's

Christmas Eve - Crib Service @ 4:30pm and Vigil Mass @ 8pm

Christmas Day – Christmas Mass @ 11am

Dates for your diary

Date	Function
3/1/23	Return to school
6/1/23	Whole school Mass @ 9:15 Epiphany
6 th – 10 th February 2023	Children's Mental Health week and Safer Internet Day

On behalf of everyone, I'd like to say a huge thank you for the generous and thoughtful gifts and cards you have sent in, they are greatly appreciated.

Finally, from all of us at St Bernadette's, we wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2023. School re-opens on 3rd January.

God bless,
Mrs Shoulder