



Our Lord, who was born in a manger, and walked this earth, you understand our chaleneges. Please shine your light on those things that take away our hope this season. Bring new birth in our hearts so love may grow within and spread to those around. With your light shining upon us, may we penetrate the darkness of our world, offering gifts of patience, kindness and justice to those our world has forgotten. In honor of the Christ-child. Amen.

Friday 8th December 2023

Message from Mrs Choudhury, Assistant Principal

At the end of last week, we moved into the blessed liturgical season of Advent. Many members of our school community will have started to open their advent calendars this week and it is this small act each day which builds the excitement towards Christmas Day. The word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin word Adventus, which means arrival, and Christians all over the world will celebrate this season of candlelight, reflection, and expectation - a chance to get ready for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

During this season, I love to visit the City Centre; even as an adult, I find myself totally enchanted by the festive displays, as well as the sights, sounds and smells which are only to be found at this special time of year. I commented to someone the other day that I do believe I love Christmas now more than when I was a child; perhaps it is because I now have children of my own and to see the joy and excitement on their faces brings me so much pleasure and adds an extra dimension to the sense of magic of this wonderful season.

As a community, we are fully aware that Christmas cannot, and will not, be a happy time for everyone. With the increasing cost of living, families will be facing worrying challenges and will struggle to buy gifts as they prioritise putting food on the table and trying to keep their loved ones safe and warm. For years, Bishop Challoner have supported the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal to ensure that children around the world receive a gift on Christmas

morning. For the third year running, we have joined forces with the Birmingham Irish Association to look closer to home, supporting families in Birmingham who face the struggle of buying gifts for their children this Christmas. As well as donating toys directly to this appeal, students at Bishop Challoner and our feeder primary schools have been busy raising money to buy toys to donate. A couple of weeks ago, a handful of our lucky students visited The Entertainer in Solihull to spend the £3000 which had been raised thus far. As a result, the Christmas tree in our foyer is now adorned with gifts and we are so proud of our school community for their generosity and kindness in making this happen! Our students are truly a blessing to us and never fail to rise to the challenge of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Next week, we will be celebrating the Yuletide season with a special Christmas Mass, led by our new parish Priests, Father John and Father Toby. We have planned this to be a truly reverent yet magical mass and invite the parents of our Year 7 students, as well as members of our wider community, to attend. The singing of festive carols will be led by our dedicated choir and Year 7 and 8 students across the school have been honing their vocal skills in preparation during the past week!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a truly special Advent; may the light and love of this blessed season be with you all!





As we approach the festive period, it is likely that many of us will be increasing the number of deliveries we have to the home. Whilst the texts and emails from reputable companies act as a key reminder for times and dates, unfortunately, scammers are using these channels to trick people into handing over personal details or more. As we move into a period of increased home deliveries, please remember the following when interrogating a message, you have received:

1. Legitimate companies will never ask for personal details! They will have provided a tracking code at purchase.
2. To my knowledge have I ordered anything?
3. Ask others in the home if they have ordered anything.
4. Do I recognise the company name, is what I have ordered with them?

If you are unsure, do not click the links contained within the message.

Cashless Catering

You will be aware that we operate a biometric cashless catering system in school. From 8th January 2024 we will no longer have a machine in school to add money to catering accounts. Please ensure that you top up your child's account regularly and ensure they have enough funds to purchase food on a daily basis. If you have any issue accessing Schoolcomms, the platform required to top up your child's account, please contact school and select the option for the Pastoral office.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

[Please click](#) here for subject information and guidance on the Year 11 mock examinations.

Year 13 Mock Examinations

[Please click](#) here for subject information and guidance on the Year 13 mock examinations.

Pre-loved Uniform

We are hoping to be able to sell some pre-loved uniform at forthcoming Parent Consultation events. Thank you to parents/carers that already send in uniform that children have grown out of. If you have any of the following items in good reusable condition that you are willing to donate please bring them into reception and we will look to include them in future pre-loved uniform sales- blazers, pleated skirts, trousers, ties, PE kit (all items), royal blue sweatshirts, maroon sweatshirts. Thank you in advance for your support.

Reporting Student Absence

All students are required to attend school/college on time every day. If for any reason your child is unable to attend, please ensure that the school attendance policy is followed, and their absence is reported before the START of the school day (8.40am) and on each day of absence. Please provide a reason for their absence and the likely length of absence, if known.

If your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 please call 0121 444 4161 and select OPTION 1.

If your child is in Year 12 please call 0121 441 6113.

If your child is in Year 13 please call 0121 441 6144

If you receive a text message or phone call from school/college because you have not reported your child's absence, please contact us on the most appropriate number as detailed above as soon as you can. Thank you for your co-operation.

Christmas Cards on Sale Now!

Our Artist in Residence, Ellie, has produced this year's Christmas image for our Christmas cards.

Cards come in packs of 10 for £5.

They are now available to purchase via Schoolcomms and can be collected from reception.

Attendance Updates

Attendance Percentage

Year 7 - 95.0%

Year 8 - 94.1%

Year 9 - 92.0%

Year 10 - 90.3%

Year 11 - 92.5%

Whole School - 93%

w/c 04/12/23

Late Marks

Year 7 - 34

Year 8 - 20

Year 9 - 81

Year 10 - 36

Year 11 - 36

Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent/Carer Consultation Day

Parent Consultation Day will be held on Wednesday 20th December, 8.30am-3.30pm. You will need to login using the details that the school holds for your child's priority 1 contact. Appointments must be made by the end of the day on Monday 18th December, if you have not made an appointment by this date, your child's Consultation Tutor will make the appointment for you.

GET IN TOUCH

In order for us work together, to best support our young people, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have information to share regarding the safeguarding or wellbeing of your child.

This is particularly important if there has been a change in circumstances for the young person.

Please contact Mrs K Peckover, Mrs M Nutt or any DSL or member of the Wellbeing Team.

Parent/Carer Survey

We are working across the schools in the South Network to improve provision for reading, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and pupils on placement. A key part of this is collecting the views of parents.

With this in mind, would you mind taking a few minutes to complete this form?

All responses are anonymous and are used to improve the provision for children across all schools.

Thank you!

[Click here](#) to get directed to the form.

Designers and Makers

Do you work in art, craft, design, engineering, manufacturing or any related creative fields?

Please contact Mrs O'Connor at t.oconnor@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk to see how you can help our school.

Uniform Standards

Students are required to wear the standard uniform of blazer, tie, white/blue shirt with black straight leg school trousers (not skinny or boot cut) or girls can wear a knee length black pleated school skirt. Girls are also reminded that if they choose to wear a skirt, then they should wear plain, black, opaque tights. Students are reminded that black leather school shoes should be worn and that trainers/trainer style shoes are forbidden.

Please note that school shoes must be kept completely black and boots of any kind are not allowed.

Our uniform requirements are complemented by a smart appearance and as such, hair styles that should not have a distinct contrast in length. Hair that is dyed must be of a natural hair colour and may not contain more than one colour. To avoid a health and safety risk, long hair must not impede vision or cover the face, except for a fringe which must not cover the eyes. Long hair must be tied up for practical lessons. Religious head coverings must be black and securely tied for practical lessons. Hair bands or accessories must be for functional use to secure the hair. Where hairbands are worn they must be black. Headwear that has religious or cultural purpose should be black. The final decision as to whether a particular haircut/style is appropriate is at the discretion of senior staff.

Make up, nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted with the exception of one pair of plain stud earrings which may be worn.

Students found to be wearing an inappropriate item of uniform may be asked to change this or in some cases parents/carers will be contacted and requested to bring replacement uniform to school.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that standards of uniform and appearance are maintained.

Free Winter Food Boxes

As part of the winter Bring It On Brum! programme; we would like to make you aware of the free winter food box initiative. Bring it on Brum! have partnered with Morrison's to provide a box of cupboard essentials and fresh produce. The contents of the box will include all the ingredients needed to make four meals. All boxes are vegetarian. Please [click here](#) for more information and details on how to register.

Term Dates

INSET School Closed: Friday 22nd December

Spring Term

Term Starts: Monday 8 January 2024

INSET School Closed: Friday 9th February

Half Term: Monday 12 February 2024 to Friday 16 February 2024

Term Ends: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

INSET School Closed: Monday 8th April 2024

Term Starts: Tuesday 9th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

INSET School Closed: Monday 22nd July 2024

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Faith formation in the family

Below is a list that reminds us of when and where Mass is celebrated in our local parishes.

You may wish to consider using this information to help direct your family to participate frequently in the celebration of Mass in 2023.

Church	Postcode	Parish Priest	Sunday Mass Times	Saturday Vigil Mass Time
St. Dunstan's	B14 7JN	Fr John Peyton	10am 12noon 6.30pm	5.30pm
St. Jude's	B14 5PE	Fr John Peyton	9.15am	-
Our Lady Of Lourdes	B13 0EU	Canon Sean Grady	9am 11am	6pm
St Catherine Of Sienna	B5 7BE	Fr. Jagadishmario Kurapati (Fr. Mario)	10.30am	5pm
St Edward's	B29 7DB	Fr Denis McGillicuddy	10.15am	6pm
St Mary's	B17 0DN	Fr John Reid	8am/9.30am/ 11am/5pm	6pm
Sacred Heart and Holy Souls	B27 6RG	Canon Jonathan Veasey	8.30am 10am 12noon	5pm
English Martyrs	B11 3JN	Fr Robert Murphy	9.45am	6pm
St Chads Cathedral,	B4 6EX	Mgr Tim Menezes	9.30am 11.30am	4.30pm
Our Lady And St Brigid	B31 5AD	Fr Cecil Rogerson	9.00am 11.45am	10am 5pm
Our Lady Of Fatima	B32 1LL	Fr Philip Long Nguyen	9.00am 11.00am	6pm
St Ambrose Barlow	B28 8QU	Fr Paul Johnson	10.00am 5.30pm	5.30pm
The Oratory Of Saint Philip Neri	B16 8UE	Fr Anton Guziel	8.30am 10.30am 12pm 5.30pm	5.30pm
St Peters	B32 3QG	Fr Gary Buckby	9.30am	-
Our Lady And St Rose Of Lima	B29 5DY	Fr Gary Buckby	11am	5.15pm

Prayer and Worship

Each Monday morning we begin our school day with a reflection on the Gospel shared in Mass on Sunday.

Each week we share our reflection on the school website, you can view it [here](#).

We would strongly encourage parents/carers to engage in developing their children's faith by sharing this reflection together as a family. As a family you can discuss the message of the Gospel say the prayer together and share what personal messages we can take from this going forward.

First Aid Reminders

Please inform the school of any new medical conditions or investigations, this is extremely important in helping us to correctly support your child's medical needs in school. We also need current emergency contact details, if these have changed you must contact the school with new details for our records.

Emergency Contacts

It is imperative we have your current correct contact information on our systems. Please inform the school if anything has changed, especially telephone numbers.

Asthma

Asthma is a chronic long term condition, it can be well managed and in many cases some don't suffer severely, however if you have been diagnosed with Asthma even if you have it well managed you must carry an inhaler on you.

Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes

In order for your children to participate safely with Trips and offsite events including offsite PE, they must carry their medication with them. This is imperative for their safety and to avoid disappointment if unable to participate.

Other medications must be handed in to first aid or the trip lead on the day.

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2023



Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years

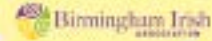
COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 oPA on Thursday 14th December



Toy Appeal

Competitions



FORM GROUP REWARDS TRIP

The form group that donates the most gifts to the appeal will be awarded with an afternoon rewards trip.

AMAZON VOUCHER PRIZE DRAW

Every student that brings in a gift will be entered into a prize draw to win an Amazon voucher.

1st prize: £50, 2nd & 3rd prize: £30, 4th & 5th prize: £15, 6th prize £10



Upcoming Events

10BOS Christmas Card Sale
Year 11 Food Practical Exam
Monday 11th December

Year 11 Food Practical Exam
Tuesday 12th December

Year 12 Soli Residential
**Wednesday 13th December -
Friday 15th December**

Year 7 & 8 Christmas Mass
Year 8 Rosary
Year 11 Food Practical Exam
Wednesday 13th December

Dementia Cafe
Thursday 14th December

Year 11 Food Practical Exam
Friday 15th December

Year 12 & 13 Art Trip to London
**Monday 18th December -
Tuesday 19th December**

Student Christmas Lunch
Monday 18th December

Cake Sale
Year 12 Maths Excellence Event
Tuesday 19th December

School Closed to all students
Year 7, 9 & 10 Parent Consultation Day
Wednesday 20th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Year 9 & 10 Mass
Thursday 21st December

School Closed Staff INSET
Friday 22nd December

Vacancies

Please visit the school website for current vacancies.

Teacher of Science (Chemistry)
Student Support Coordinator
SSWIS Project Coordinator