



Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

READING MATTERS





Merry CHRISTMAS!

WITH LOVE,
OLSB STUDENT LIBRARIANS

Dear Readers,

As the year draws to a close, we celebrate a month filled with the warmth, generosity, and joy that reflect our Catholic ethos. December in the library has been a truly magical time, with festive cheer and creativity lighting up our space!

We began the month with Christmas craft sessions, where pupils brought their imaginations to life, creating decorations and gifts to share with loved ones. Our Christmas-themed story time was a highlight, as we gathered around to enjoy tales of kindness, hope, and the true meaning of the season. And of course, the excitement of our Christmas book exchange was contagious! It was wonderful to see pupils exchanging stories with one another, discovering new adventures, and spreading the joy of reading.



As we prepare for Christmas, let us carry forward the spirit of giving and community that has filled our library this month. Thank you for making this season so special, and I look forward to many more shared moments in the library in the new year.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a joyful, peaceful holiday season!

And as always, happy reading,

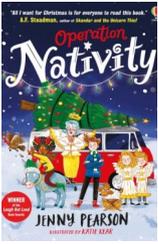
Ms. Jawaid

Librarian



LIBRARIAN'S Recommendations

Our Storytime theme this month was The Nativity, a story of love and joy. Here are some festive reads full of the same feelings.



Operation Nativity by Jenny Pearson

Two children are on a mission to save Christmas after the Angel Gabriel crash lands in the back garden

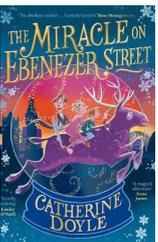
Charming story full of humour and hope.



A Swallow in Winter by Timothee Fombelle

On a quiet Christmas night, a swallow takes flight from Africa, searching for something

A beautiful picture book, perfect for a read-aloud with the message of perseverance and kindness.



The Miracle on Ebenezer Street by Catherine Doyle

A young boy, still grieving for his mother three years after her death, finds an old snow globe that shows him and his distant father three Christmases - one each from the past, present, and future.

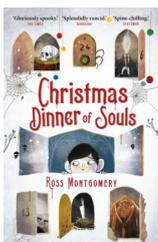
Clever retelling of a classic with moments of heartbreak sprinkled with humour and magic.



The Girl who Saved Christmas by Matt Haig

A young Victorian chimney sweep and Father Christmas help each other out at their time of need at Christmas time.

Creative and innovative story of a plucky Victorian heroine.



Christmas Dinner of Souls by Ross Montgomery

To repay his breaking of a college window, 11-year-old Lewis is tasked to serve dinner to a party of ex-college students who have congregated for an evening of gruesome storytelling.

Gleefully macabre festive fear!

STUDENT LIBRARIANS'

Recommendations

Here are festive picks from our Student Librarians!



How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr Seuss

When the grumpy Grinch tries to steal Christmas from the citizens of Who-ville, he soon realizes there's more to it than mistletoe and tinsel!

Easy to read, Christmas classic.—Lauretta



A World Full of Christmas Crafts by Helen Mortimer

Craft around the world this Christmas and find out how children from different cultures celebrate the festive season.

An informative and fun way to learn about fun Christmas traditions.—Aryanna



Secrets of a Christmas Elf by Ben Miller

When Holly's dad, Father Christmas is kidnapped, she races to rescue him.

Stresses the importance of family bonds especially during Christmas.—Sophia



Charlie and the Christmas Factory by Rikin Parekh

A lovely collection of seasonal stories based on Roald Dahl characters.

Popular Roald Dahl story characters with a fun Christmas twist.—Lauren



Refuge by Anne Booth

Retells the Nativity and Mary and Joseph's flight as a refugee story.

Lovely book that made me stop and realise we should be mindful of those struggling, especially refugees, through times of celebration.—Ellie



The Magic Faraway Tree: A Christmas Adventure by Jacqueline Wilson

Explore the much-loved Magic Faraway Tree at the most special time of the year.

Great fantasy and adventure stories inspired by Enid Blyton.—Chloe



The Ice Children by M.G Leonard

When children start being frozen into statues, 10-year-old Bianca crosses over into the winter land of Winterton to try to save her brother

Perfect adventure for a hot chocolate moment.—Isabelle



Horrible Christmas by Terry Deary

An alternative look at the festive season full of festive facts.

Funny Christmas trivia.—Grace



Snow Fowl by Susanna Bailey

A young girl bonds with an abandoned Exmoor pony foal when she goes to stay with a foster family after her mother is hospitalised.

A five-star read about a girl befriendng a horse.—Annie



This Winter by Alice Oseman

One family must get through Christmas and it will either break them apart or begin to heal them.

Highlights the struggles of eating disorders during the holidays.—George



LIBRARY *Events*



The library was transformed into a global hub of festive cheer as we explored the diverse traditions of Christmas around the world. Through our Multicultural Club presentations, pupils discovered the rich tapestry of customs that make this holiday so special in different countries. From the delicious Christmas bread of Eritrea to the serene lanterns of the Philippines, the legend of Befana from Italy and the joyful carolling of Russia, we celebrated the beauty of our shared humanity and the many ways people welcome the Christmas season.

The countries represented were: Eritrea, Nigeria, Honduras, Philippines, Russia, Romania, Palestine, Poland, and Italy.





LIBRARY

Events



The library hosted a variety of activities that brought festive joy to all. Our Christmas craft sessions inspired creativity as pupils made ornaments, cards, and festive keepsakes. At Christmas-themed story time, we dove into enchanting tales that celebrated kindness, love, and the magic of the season. And of course, our ever-popular Christmas book exchange encouraged the joy of giving, as students swapped stories and discovered exciting new reads to take home for the holidays.

This December, the library became a place not only of learning but of connection, as we embraced the true meaning of Christmas: love, generosity, and understanding. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this season so meaningful.



STUDENT LIBRARIANS

Special Thanks

As the year draws to a close, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for the incredible effort and dedication you've shown throughout this festive season. Your hard work has made our holiday events truly magical. From decorating shelves to helping with special events, you've spread joy to everyone who stepped through our doors.



Looking ahead, I'm excited to share that the new year will bring even more opportunities to shine with upcoming projects and programs. Your talents and teamwork will continue to make the library a vibrant place for all!

Wishing you a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and a little well-deserved rest.

