



Our Lady & St Thomas Catholic Primary School, Willington



You are unique, talented and loved by God

Friday Email – Monday 14th November



We will remember them

The children of Our Lady and St Thomas were excellent today in our Remembrance silence paying their respects to all those who have lost their lives to war. Ellen from Class 4 was superb and extremely brave playing 'The Last Post' for us and lead us in our reflection. What a superstar!

We will gather as a village community this Sunday 13th November down at the Cenotaph. It would be lovely for as many of us as possible to attend the short service. Emily and Layton will lay our school wreath to honour the fallen as we pray for peace in our world. All are welcome. Please gather from 2.45pm for a 3pm start, the road will be closed from 2.30pm for the procession. I always am taken with how powerful this is and feel proud to be part of the Willington community that does this so well.

Special Thanks



Our School Council, led by Mrs Hauxwell, were part of a community project planting bulbs in the village this week. They were commended for their excellent behaviour and conduct by the Town Council and are a credit to their family and school. Spring will see the village bloom in colour! Well done to all.

Congratulations

OLST pupils also represented their school this week at the Cross Country competition. Craig and Mrs Arrowsmith took the children to Staindrop to be part of this inter-schools' competition. As always, our pupils were excellent and we are extremely proud of their efforts.

Refugee Project

The Y6 Mini Vinnies will be in charge of a special project to welcome any new refugee children that arrive in the North East. We will be delivering a collection of Welcome cards created by our pupils to the Refugee Centre in Newcastle next week and the pupils will report on their visit. They will be given a tour of the centre and be able to see how their Harvest collection shared between the Food Bank and Refugee Centre is used. Our pupils have such kind hearts and want to make a real difference and put their Faith into Action.

Salvation Army Appeal

We are continuing with our usual new Christmas Toy appeal for local families in need. Please send in any donations from November 21st. The deadline is usually the beginning of December to allow time for wrapping and distribution. Our Mini Vinnies will liaise with the Salvation Army at Crook and more specific details will be sent out next week.

Little Princess Trust

A special thank you to Amelia Sherwood for being the latest little girl with long, thick beautiful hair to want to donate to this special charity which makes wigs for children suffering hair loss through childhood cancer. She is currently raising money through sponsorship. If anyone wishes to donate, please send an envelope to the school office and we will pass this on to her mum doing this on her behalf.

Parent Governor

Congratulations to **Miss Stephanie Mavin** on her appointment as Parent Governor of Our Lady and St Thomas. We wish her every success. I would also like to thank those who also put their names forward. We were very lucky to have had four such strong candidates. There are many schools not as lucky and struggle for Governors. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to vote. I am sure there will be further opportunities in the future.

Flu Immunisations

Public Health are concerned that many families have not signed up for their child to receive their flu immunisation this year. Anybody who is unsure about this and would like to speak to our School Nurse, please contact the office and we will arrange this for you.

Parents Evenings

We will be holding our Parents Evenings on **Monday 21st November and Thursday 24th November from 3.30 – 5.30pm**. It is very important all parents attend. Mrs Caton has it all set to go live tonight and for you to be able to book your appointments via the ScoPay app.

I would also like to make myself available both evenings as I have taken on the role of SENDCo this year due to our staffing changes. In addition to your appointment with your child's class teacher, I will be available for any parent of children with additional needs. Please book this also via the system.

Christmas Jumpers

Please donate any Christmas jumpers your child may have grown out of and we will endeavour to recycle these during our Parents Evenings.

Uniform Sale

Uniform will also be on sale in the School Hall both evenings also for a small donation. Any uniform you are wishing to recycle can be re-distributed. We want to do everything possible in such difficult times.

Anyone struggling?

Please do not struggle or suffer in silence. We have an excellent Parent Support Navigator Kim Oldham who is attached to school and can signpost families in need. We are always here to help.

Next week:

- **Monday 14th November – Odd Sock Day to kick off our Anti-Bullying week.**
Please ask your children about what they learn in school next week as this issue is so important.
- **Thursday 17th November** – Height and Weight Checks for Reception and Year 6 (School Nurse).
- **Friday 18th November – Children in Need**
Pupils are welcome to wear any supporting Pudsey items that day however we know this is an added cost so will simply have a Collection Box in each class and at the School gates for any donations you wish to make.

Please note **Friday 25th November** - School Closed to children due to PD Day.

Christmas Dates

Please see the attached Christmas Dates for December so families can plan. We are looking forward to welcoming families back into school for the Nativities and Performances we have all missed in recent years.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Veitch

Mrs Veitch

Head Teacher