



This Sunday marks the third Sunday in Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. This is the day we light the pink candle on our Advent wreaths. A symbol of joy; joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus as well as the joy that we have reached the midpoint of Advent. To me, it is the joy of the children and staff working together in school to ensure that the Advent Services go as well as they can, the joy of parents watching their children perform on our stage and just the joy and excitement that we all feel, no matter how old, when we sit down and spend precious time with the people that we love. This is something we should never take for granted since many people are not able to do that as the war between Russia and Ukraine continues.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Year 3 and Year 4 Advent Service. It was lovely to see the children, parents and parish come together as one.



The service was live streamed so you can watch the recorded version through this link: [fb.com/holyfamilyhartlepool](https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyhartlepool)



Carols by Candlelight was wonderful, last night. The children all sang beautifully, and the lucky winners of the Santa's Surprise and bingo were all very happy. There was certainly a lucky table last night and Mr Hair wanted to take it home with him! (I think he would have preferred the table than the elf!)

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children, a lovely night was had by all.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent consultation evenings took place this week and I hope you all have a good understanding of your child's progress and expectations for the year group they are in. Can I please ask you to complete a short survey by following this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/jwA4vn7z2H>

Mrs Darnton's parents' evenings were not able to go ahead this week due to her back problem. She had emergency spinal surgery on Wednesday so please keep her in your prayers as we all wish her a speedy recovery. Her meetings with parents will be rearranged as soon as she returns back to work.



Nursery had their Christmas Stay and Play this week. The activities and crafts that both children and parents alike were involved in was wonderful to see. Thank you to everyone who came along.



Christmas Lunch was a resounding success! Who said that 408 children could not be fed, have an extended playtime and the teachers survive!! It was lovely to have a large number of children, in the hall, at the same time, eating, singing and generally have a lovely time. Their faces said it all.

The best bit, for me, was when the whole hall erupted to Mariah Carey's, 'All I want for Christmas' song. It really was the best feeling in the world.



Some of our Change4Life group went to English Martyrs to take part in a town-wide Change4Life event. Well done to those children.

More photos are available on our website: <https://sacredheart.bhcet.org.uk/latest-news/>

VIRTUE THURSDAY

Well done to all the children who achieved the Resilience Virtue Award this week.



Not only do we have all the talent in school but some of our superstars have received trophies and awards for events outside of school. Congratulations to Amelia for her cheerleading awards and to Aria, who won the Rising Star Award 2022 at the Hartlepool Sports Council Awards.

Well done girls!

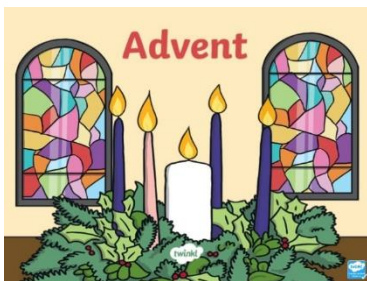


Uniform

Many children are coming into school without the correct uniform on. Please remember children are not allowed to wear makeup including lipstick, mascara and nail varnish. They are not allowed to have lines or patterns cut into their hair and can only wear trainers if they are all black or it is their PE day.

PE uniform is black leggings, tracksuit bottoms or shorts with a red PE T-shirt and either a red hoody or their school cardigan or jumper. They are not allowed to wear a different colour hoody.

All items need to be labelled with the child's name including gloves, hats and scarves. I appreciate some have initials on but some children share the same initials and the younger children particularly do not recognise their own items.



This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. In this week's Holy Family Parish Bulletin, there is a lovely section for the children, please share it with your child. The Holy Family parish bulletin can be found by following this link: <https://sacredheart.bhcet.org.uk/parish/> which will direct you to the school website.

Christmas Fayre

We have had an overwhelming response to the sweetie cups, bottles and chocolates. Thank you all for your support and generosity at this time of the year and in these difficult financial times. One last plea (honestly) is cakes. Your child will bring home a paper plate on Monday, we would really appreciate it if you could put a few cakes or biscuits on the plate and return them on Wednesday morning.

Pantomime

On Thursday, children will attend the pantomime at Billingham Forum Theatre. On that day it would be helpful if the children did not bring their school bag. If your child is on packed lunch, please bring it in a carrier bag so that it can be disposed of.

Children are not allowed to take sweets but they can take a water bottle. It would be an idea if they could take a disposable bottle rather than a bought one so there are no worries around children losing their own water bottles.

Buses will be leaving Billingham Forum as soon as all children are onboard. This will mean that not all buses will arrive back at school at the same time. To ease congestion and for the safety of your child, children will be dismissed from the main playground opposite St Luke's Church. Please wait on the yard to collect your child. If you are allowing your child to walk home by themselves, please phone the school office to inform us. Do not message the class teacher.

Meal Arrangements

Please remember that any changes to meal arrangements must be communicated with the school office. Please do not switch between meals and packed lunch without informing us as we have to provide the numbers to the school cook each week.

ATTENDANCE

This week, our attendance was 92.7%

Well done to Class 14 who had the best attendance this week with 96.9%

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 11 th December	First Holy Communion Session 4
Monday 12 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 1.30pm, please purchase tickets.
Tuesday 13 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 9.30am, please purchase tickets.
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Fayre Parish Carol Service 5pm St Joseph's Church
Thursday 15 th December	The Pantomime! Trip to Billingham Forum to see Beauty and the Beast
Saturday 17 th December	Children, making their FHC will make their First Reconciliation
Tuesday 20 th December	School closes for the Christmas holidays
Wednesday 4 th January	School reopens at 8.30am

Items in red are new this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Headteacher