 

ST CLARE’S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

Guided by Jesus Christ, our teacher, we journey together learning to dream, believe and achieve.

Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

The Christmas rush has started. Our children are getting ready for Christmas and are busy rehearsing for their concerts. We realise that for many people that Christmas is a stressful time and is financially draining. If you need any support at all, please contact Mrs Sylvester at school for a private conversation. If we are unable to help you, we may be able to refer you to somebody who can.

Thank you to the parents who attended our Reception class stay and play and Tales Toolkit session. Hopefully you got a good insight into what a typical day looks like for your child. The children have also been completing assessments this week which gives the teachers a good indication of your child’s learning this term and helps them to plan for future lessons.

Our nursery children have been reading ‘Handa’s Surprise’ and learning about the exotic fruits it mentions. They even got to taste some of them. In Reception, the children have read ‘After the Storm’ and are busy designing new tree homes for the animals. Year 1 have been researching toys that their parents played with, so that they can compare them to their own toys. Online safety and sending emails securely has been the topic for Year 2 in computing this week. Year 3 have been investigating magnets as part of their science topic and wondering what would happen if their fingers were magnets. Year 4 have been doing fitness and endurance lessons in PE and they have been doing lots of squats. In Year 5, the children have been learning about internet safety and the importance of passwords to secure information. In Science, Year 6 have carried out a ‘Gummy Bear’ experiment to test osmosis and diffusion.

**Assembly**

**Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

**Matthew 24: 42**

Our assembles were led by 2O and 5G this week who both did a wonderful job explaining the significance of the Advent season – a season of preparation. They both explained the meaning of the Advent wreath: the fact that it is round because God’s love has no end; it is green because God’s love for us is ever green; and the meaning of each of the Advent candles. The children were amazing and enjoyed sharing their knowledge with us. They dazzled us once again with their performance skills and confidence.

We also welcomed a CAFOD speaker into school on Friday who spoke to us about people oversees and their lack of access to water and food and how we can support them through their World Gifts programme. We will look at doing some fundraising for CAFOD after Christmas. If anyone wants to buy a World Gift for Christmas, please see https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/

**Pupil Certificates**

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|  | Pupil of the week | Achievement  |
| N | Poppy for amazing singing during our Nativity play, for some amazing answers on the carpet and for being a fantastic role model within class. | Ella for some amazing singing during our Nativity rehearsals |
| RBD | Maggie for having an incredibly positive attitude and growth mindset in everything she does! | Elijah G for some outstanding story telling with our tales toolkit this term. |
| RS | Krystale for trying really hard to sing our nativity songs when we've been practising. | Leala for doing her first sentence in school and spelling tricky words correctly! |
| 1D | Olivia M for making a good effort with your behaviour and for coming in from playtimes sensibly.  | Jakub W for trying hard to improve your handwriting and presentation.  |
| 1G | Kiki for always having high standards and trying her best in everything.  | Jaxley for improved handwriting. |
| 2C | Jake for trying hard in all of his work all week | Olivia K for showcasing her amazing arithmetic knowledge in our maths quiz |
| 2O | Tanatswa for always following doing her best and always ready to help others. | Joleen for trying so hard in her assessments this week and never giving up |
| 3A | Pheobe for being a fantastic stand in for the role of Mary in our Nativity this week | Shae for brilliant delivery of her lines during our Nativity practice this week |
| 3K | Jack for an amazing show and tell this week! | Adam for brilliant resilience and perseverance in Maths this term! |
| 4H | Miley for always being so helpful around the class and supporting her table. | Alex for doing really well in his reading test and always trying his best. |
| 4S | Laura for always doing the right thing and being kind and helpful to everyone in our class. | Poppy for a beautiful non-chronological report about different types of music. |
| 5G | Rowan for always being so kind and considerate of others and helping to organise the Debatemate team.   | Ikemba for producing an excellent non-chronological report on Japan and helping to organise the Debatemate Team.   |
| 5W | Eisha for having a fantastic start to St Clare’s, demonstrating a brilliant attitude towards her work. | Megan for fantastic effort and progress in her assessments this week. |
| 6F | Emilia for always setting the example and trying her best in everything, she is a pleasure to teach | Tommy for always wanting to better his score on TT Rockstars. Fantastic commitment! |
| 6H | Emmanuella for consistently perfect behaviour and being a wonderful role model. | Ethan for making great progress in his maths and reading papers. |
| 6S | Alex for always having a lovely positive attitude, and being a brilliant role model for our class!  | Freddie for putting 100% effort into all of his assessments this week. He has made fantastic progress.  |

**Headteacher awards**

 Aria in RS for making a great autumn crown.

Brody in 1G for knowing all his lines for the Christmas play, good acting and knowing when to come on and off the stage.

Denver in 2C for being so incredibly kind.

Constantine in 3G for learning his lines for the play off by heart and great acting skills.

Keir in 4S for a good improvement in his maths assessments and becoming more resilient.

Ella in 6H for her brilliant organisation and leadership skills in forest school.

Mason in 6S for being a good team player and ensuring all children are involved in games.

**Christmas Raffle**

We have started raffling some Christmas hampers, two of which were donated, throughout December. They are good prizes – thank you for your generosity so far. The raffle tickets are £1 each and will be sold before and after school by our Mini-Clares. The money raised will be put to good use to support those in need in our community.

**Millionaire readers**

Well done to Paris who has now reached 3 million words on her Accelerated reader. What a fantastic achievement! Emmanuella in 5S has also reached 2 million words and Etinosa in 5W has reached his first milliom. We are very proud of the children. Reading is an important life skill which brings pleasure to so many people. It is also vital for academic success. Please keep reading or encouraging your child to read for some time every evening.

**Attendance**

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Attendance this week is 91.8% which is below our target of 97%. There were 236 days absence this week which equates to 1180 of lost learning hours. Please try to bring your child to school everyday to give them the best chance in life.

The best classes this week were 4H, 4S and 6F who all achieved 97% - a huge well done to all those children. They will have an extra five minutes break.

**Reconciliation**

The children who are taking part in the Sacramental Programme this year will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation in December. There is a rehearsal the day before the Sacrament takes place. There are two separate weeks to accommodate all the children taking part. As the parish run the programme, Father Jeremiah will confirm which dates your child needs to attend. The dates are:

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th December

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December

**Christmas dates**

I know that many of you will want to join your children in their Christmas performances, so I am giving you advanced warning of the dates:

Tuesday 6th December and Thursday 8th December **– Nursery** performance 2.30pm. There are two performances due to part-time children attending at different ends of the week.

Tuesday 13th December – **Reception** performances at 9.30am and 2.15pm

Wednesday 7th December – **Year 1** Christmas Nativity play 2.15pm

Wednesday 14th December – **Year 2** Christmas carols 2.30pm

Friday 9th December – **Year 3** Christmas play 9.30am

Friday 16th December – **Years 4, 5 and 6** Christmas service in church 9.30am

Monday 19th December – Key Stage 2 music showcase 9.30am

In addition to our performances, there are other events for the children linked to our Christmas festivities:

Friday 9th December – Christmas jumper day

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas dinner

Monday 19th December – Beauty and the Beast Christmas pantomime for EYFS and Key Stage 1 in school

 Key Stage 2 party afternoon

Tuesday 20th December – Beauty and the Beast Christmas pantomime for Key Stage 2 in school

 EYFS and Key Stage 1 party afternoon

**Christmas whole school Mass – Tuesday 20th December 9.15am. You are welcome to join us.**

**Admissions 2024/25**

We are proposing a change to our admissions criteria for the 2024/25 academic year, so that our policy is in line with diocesan guidelines. We are holding a six week consultation period where you can express your views on the policy / admission arrangements. If you have any comments, please email the school on admin@st-clares-manchester-sch-uk by 12pm on 2nd December 2022 – this Friday. The proposed policy is shared on our school webpage. Please see it on <https://www.st-clares.manchester.sch.uk/our-school/essential-information/admissions-information>

**Support**

We know that families may experience difficult times and difficult situations throughout a year, especially with the cost of living increase. We are here to support you in any way we can - should you need it. If you are experiencing any financial or other worries, please get in touch. If we are unable to help you, we may know of a group who can help. Please contact Mrs Sylvester at school for a discrete conversation if you require some support.

Manchester City Council have a webpage called Helping Hands which is a helpful pocket guide for residents of Manchester containing information on the support available to those who may need help and advice.  [Help with the cost of living crisis | Manchester City Council](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands) There are two other sources of information that you may find useful:

Manchester City Council information about [Council support if you're in financial difficulty](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.manchester.gov.uk%2FFinancialSupport&data=05%7C01%7Cmarie.hall%40manchester.gov.uk%7Ca4aa4f0c9a134ec12e8408da868c0750%7Cb0ce7d5e81cd47fb94f7276c626b7b09%7C0%7C0%7C637970233215899576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5J1%2BI4tIlhc%2BxwRIYuQtUI6EgZDycNN%2Fn2HbMi6SbMA%3D&reserved=0)

Information on wider support - [Help with the cost of living crisis | Manchester City Council](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.manchester.gov.uk%2FHelpingHands&data=05%7C01%7Cmarie.hall%40manchester.gov.uk%7Ca4aa4f0c9a134ec12e8408da868c0750%7Cb0ce7d5e81cd47fb94f7276c626b7b09%7C0%7C0%7C637970233215899576%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cUIFB%2F9glR%2BEyOVOeflqXAXqnEB9NHL1DU5xPfC6w5g%3D&reserved=0)

**Manchester City Council Cost of Living Advice Line**

To support Manchester residents through the cost-of-living crisis, Manchester City Council will be providing an advice line that will offer:

1. Support with benefits and help with your rent (this is an existing offer made available through the contact centre)

2. Advice about debt and paying bills (this will be done in conjunction with Citizen Advice Manchester)

3. Food support (residents will receive a call back to understand their needs and connected into a local food offer)

4. Support getting online (residents will be linked in with the Council’s digital inclusion team)

**By Phone:** The advice line can be accessed via a free phone number **0800 023 2692**. The line will be open 9:00-4:30 Monday to Friday. Agents on the phone line will have access to language line for those residents whose first language is not English. **Sign Video** will also be available for residents who may require this facility.

**On line:** An on line form will be available at <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands> for those who do not wish to contact by phone. The advice line will also have its own web page that will have links to information of how residents are able to access support. <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/helpinghands>

**Upcoming dates:**

Wednesday 21st December – finish for Christmas at 1.15pm

Monday 9th January – re-open for the spring term at 8.50am

I hope that you all have a great weekend,

Take care

Mrs Howe.