 

ST CLARE’S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

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

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

The autumn term is nearly over and it has been a very busy period. This is the final newsletter of the term. Thank you for joining in all our Christmas celebrations. It has been so lovely to be able to welcome you into school to join in our festivities. This week our Reception, Year 2 and Years 4,5,6 pupils have all performed their Christmas services for parents. They were amazing and put on a good ‘show.’ We enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday. Next week we have a travelling pantomime, music showcase and party afternoon to look forward to. The children can wear sensible ‘party’ clothes for the event. Early Years and Key Stage 1 will have their party on Tuesday afternoon, whilst Key Stage 2 is on Monday. We are celebrating Mass on Tuesday at 9.15am.

Nursery and Reception have been getting creative this week making Christmas calendars, stockings and treats. Year 1 have made cars out of milk bottles whilst Year 2 have been learning about the properties of 3d shapes. Year 3 have been painting in the style of Monet and made their volcanoes ‘erupt’ in science. Year 4 have been making their musical instruments after having designed them. Year 5 have made bread as part of the DT topic, but also notice reversible and irreversible changes. In maths, Year 6 have been doing code breakers to consolidate their understanding of converting metric measurements.

**Assembly**

This week our Mini-Clares led our assemblies. They focused on Advent and the significance of each of the parts of the Advent wreath. They sang a beautiful rendition of Love Shone Down. The children love listening to other children leading them in their worship. Well done to our Mini-Clares.

**Pupil Certificates**

**Headteacher awards**

Sean in RS for beautiful, enthusiastic singing in the Reception Christmas performance.

Daylia in 1G for making a crown at Otters and wanting to share it with others.

Lilith in 2C for putting actions to all the Christmas carols in the Year 2 performance this week.

Isla in 3K for great problem solving in maths.

Laura in 4S for creating a non-fiction book about animals.

Ade in 5G for always pushing himself to be the best he can be.

Casey in 6H for great maths work during a revision session.

Emilia in 6F for being an amazing artist.

**Caritas Award**

This week the award goes to Jagger in Year 5 who has donated one of his possessions to another child. I’m sure that you will agree that this is putting love into action.

**Christmas Raffle**

We had an amazing response to our Christmas raffle and raised £690 to help those in need. Thank you so much for making this fundraiser such a success. The lucky winners were:

 Grace O in 1G; Ged Collins; Olivia G in RDB; Mrs Heaps; Aubree in 1D; and Woody in 6S

**Attendance**

Attendance this week has been poor due to the many illnesses circulating. Thank you for taking your children to the doctors so quickly when asked – it has helped stop an outbreak of Strep A and others. Our attendance is 89.3%.

The best class this week is 6S with 96%. Well done to them!

**Reconciliation**

Congratulations to the children in 3A who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. Both classes have now completed the Sacrament. Thank you for supporting your child on their faith journey.

**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:

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:

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.**

**WE CLOSE FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ON WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 1.15PM. We re-open at 8.50**

**Help from Manchester libraries**

Any Manchester resident (over 18 years) who is struggling to pay for data on their device can now get a free SIM that comes loaded with free data! SIMs come with free internet access for a total of 6 months, no monthly top up required. All you have to do is call into your local library. Find out more and how to claim your SIM at the Lets get digital Manchester site

Free warm spaces in libraries across Manchester: Every library in Manchester is a ‘warm space’, a free, safe place where residents can come in and stay warm all day in a welcoming, inclusive environment. Our libraries are packed full of resources and support for all ages:

* Free, self-service hot drinks
* Comfortable seating and welcoming spaces
* Free Internet
* Free Wifi
* Newspapers
* Information and advice
* Staff who can signpost to other support agencies
* Digital drop-ins one day a week
* Under 5s story times once a week at 11am (ask your local library for more details).

**Warm spaces**

Find a Warm Welcome Space Today

Nearly 3000 registered organisations have opened free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public this winter across the UK. You can use [this Warm Welcome Interactive Map](https://www.warmwelcome.uk/#find-a-space) to find your nearest warm space, including libraries and other spaces in Manchester and further afield.

**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:**

Monday 19th December – Christmas music showcase 9.30am

Tuesday 20th December – Christmas Mass 9.15am

Wednesday 21st December – finish for Christmas at 1.15pm

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

On behalf of everyone at St Clare’s, we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Howe.