

ST CLARE'S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

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

Friday 17th December 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

We have definitely been getting into the Christmas spirit this week at St Clare's. As well as lessons, the remainder of our children have performed their Christmas shows for their parents. They were all hugely successful and very well received from parents. Year 3 started off the week with their performance of 'I'm Gonna Shine.' They were amazing and their singing gave you goose-bumps. Reception then told their 'Christmas Story.' They looked and sounded adorable. Year 2 sang their Christmas carols outside in true Christmas style around their 'stable.' They melted hearts with their rendition of 'Give a little love.' Today, Years 4, 5 and 6 finished off the week beautifully with their Christmas service. We certainly have a host of very talented, confident, truly special children who have created some wonderful memories this Christmas time. We are very proud of them all and our staff for preparing them so well. St Clare's is truly blessed!

The excitement in school did not end with our shows. On Tuesday, the whole school were treated to a pantomime. The Early Years and Key Stage 1 children welcomed a visiting pantomime company into school who performed Aladdin for them. The children really enjoyed it. On the same afternoon, our Key Stage 2 children visited the Opera House to see Alexandra Burke in Aladdin. They children loved it, were thoroughly entertained and laughed constantly. It was a joy to see them having so much fun. Special thanks to Mrs Sylvester for organising the events so well. On Wednesday, the children wore their Christmas jumpers and were treated to their delicious Christmas dinner. Thank you to the kitchen staff for the lovely meal. The following day, children enjoyed their Christmas parties and played party games. We have also had a live link to Father Christmas! On Monday afternoon, our Saint winners in Key Stage 2 (St Francis) and St Josephine in Key Stage 1 / Early Years will be treated to a special Christmas activity as a reward for winning the most tokens this half term.

Santa Shay

On Wednesday morning, children and parents were greeted by Santa Shay who happily played and sang some Christmas songs as children arrived at school dressed in a full Santa's outfit. He brought many a smile to the children's faces. If you missed it, he is planning a repeat performance – please join in with the singing. It doesn't matter if you sing all the right notes in the wrong order!

Assembly

"I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of His sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." **Luke 1: 26 – 38**

Throughout Advent, we are told to **stand tall** in our faith, and face difficulties with strength and courage. Then we are taught to **bow down** our hearts; to confess our sins and allow Jesus to change them. This week, children were encouraged to **welcome Jesus** through their words and actions, as we rejoice in His presence among us.

Religious Life

On Wednesday and Thursday evening our Year 3 children reached another milestone in their Sacramental Journey. They made the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our church. We all make mistakes and sometimes hurt people, but our children know that if they are truly sorry, they can ask God for forgiveness and it will be granted. We thank Father Jeremiah for celebrating this special occasion with us.

On Tuesday 21st December, the whole school will attend Mass at 9.15 am as we prepare to finish for Christmas. We remind the children of the true significance of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Pupil certificates

	Pupil of the week	Achievement
N	Lennox for always being a superstar in nursery!	Leala for amazing nativity homework!
RH	Olivia C for excellent listening and recall of the Nativity story.	Shay for mature and open discussion in our PSHE lesson
RC	To all of the Reception for working so hard in our Christmas show!!	Nova for being a superstar in our Nativity and filling in for Mary!
Y1S	Donald for trying so hard with his letter formation!	Hillary for making a fantastic toy car in DT!
Y1D	Freddy for being enthusiastic during dance and having a positive attitude to trying new things.	Ranveer for trying hard with your maths work.
Y2M	Ava for her amazing and confident performance in the Christmas Carol Concert!	The Whole Class for putting on a spectacular Christmas Carol Concert. We are all so proud of you!
Y2L	Zachery for being a fantastic stand in, during the Christmas performance when a child was absent.	Skylar for a super performance during the Christmas concert, overcoming her nerves! She was brilliant!
Y3M	Panashe for memorising her lines and using a big voice to project clearly during the Nativity.	The whole class, for working so hard on the Nativity and being outstanding performers. I'm so proud of you. Well done!
Y3G	Jacob for stepping in as Joseph last minute. It was so brave and you did a fantastic job. Well done and thank you Jacob!	Adam for a fantastic attitude to his writing. He has written a brilliant diary entry at home and we are all super proud of him! Keep it up Adam.
Y4RW	Millie for having a fantastic attitude towards school, trying her hardest and making school fun for everyone.	Scarlett for fantastic reading this week passing on a quiz with 80,000 words.
Y4S	Dylan for putting 100% effort into his work this week, you can tell he is taking pride in what he is doing.	Destiny for trying so hard on his handwriting and focussing on his finger spaces.
Y5OH	Emilia for always being such an amazing role model for everyone. She has a wonderful personality and lovely manners.	Hollie who has tried so hard in her maths this week and has never given up when she finds it difficult.
Y5OK	Bella for always being a fantastic role model to the class - she always has lovely manners and a positive attitude towards her learning!	Bailey for fantastic reading. He has been working really hard and quizzing on lots of books so he has made brilliant progress! Well done.
Y5H	Leo for always being an excellent role model to the class, especially at the pantomime.	Jake for doing amazing work in maths this week and correcting all previous misconceptions.
Y6F	Lily for being a fantastic help in the classroom and trying her best no matter what	Vinny for writing a wonderful setting description using the 5 senses
Y6H	Poppy for having lovely manners and always behaving perfectly.	Lewis for completing so much work on co-ordinates!
Y6S	Harry for always having a positive attitude and being such a lovely classmate to everybody in 6S.	Yvette for brilliant team work in maths this week, her reasoning skills were amazing and she supported her team very well in our Christmas themed challenges.

Headteacher's Awards:

Macey in Nursery for being a king friend.

Toby in 2M for impeccable manners.

George in 5O for being such a thoughtful child and a great role model in all he does.

'Santa' Shay in 6F for entertaining everyone on his guitar as they arrived for school and bringing a smile to so many faces.

Millionaire Reader

Today, Paris in 5H has reached three million words on Accelerated Reader. What an incredible achievement! With all this reading, I'm sure Paris will achieve her ambition of being an author or a journalist. Well done Paris!

Mrs P O'Keefe

Sadly, on Tuesday we say a fond farewell to one of our Year 5 teachers – Mrs O'Keefe. Mrs O'Keefe is leaving St Clare's after seven years of dedicated service for personal reasons. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing her the very best for the future and to thank her for all she has done for the pupils of St Clare's during her time here. She will be missed.

Her class will be taught by Mr Keogh from January until the end of the year.

Attendance

Whole school attendance this week is 93.5%. The best class for attendance this week is 4S with 99.3%. They are also the best class this half term with an overall attendance of 97.2%. Well done 4S!

Covid 19

Covid restrictions were changed by the government again this week.

If you come into school at all, even to our reception desk, you must wear a face covering unless you are exempt from doing so. If you come into contact with anyone who tests positive with Covid, you should do daily lateral flow tests. You no longer need to isolate if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive with the Omicron variant. You are asked to carry out daily lateral flow tests for 10 days.

Please remember that if your child develops a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or their sense of smell or taste changes, they need to take a PCR test. Your child only has to be displaying one of the three symptoms. They should not be sent into school until they have a negative PCR test or they have completed their isolation period. Children will still be sent home from school if they are displaying any of these symptoms. There are many more symptoms that children display when Covid positive, so if your child is unwell we would recommend a lateral flow test or PCR.

We will send you a 'Warn and Inform' letter should someone in your child's class test positive for Covid.

Young Voices

We have just received notification from Young Voices that our performance scheduled for February will be postponed due to Covid. We are awaiting further details as to when they hope to re-schedule the concert. Purchased tickets will still be valid for the new date. As soon as we know any more, we will notify you.

Support

As a school we are here to support your child academically, spiritually and emotionally. If you are in need of any support, any support at all - this could be food or clothing – you must contact us at school. We may be able to help you and will not make judgements. If we cannot help you, we know of many agencies that can offer support including our own church. Please contact Mrs Sylvester for a discrete conversation if you require support.

Christmas Performances and Safety

The only remaining performance for next week is our music showcase on Monday morning. The following restrictions still apply.

- Tickets will be limited and issued for all in school events, so that we can welcome you as safely as possible. **WE WILL ONLY BE ALLOWING ONE TICKET PER CHILD IF THEY ARE PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PREMISES WITHOUT A TICKET.**
- All visitors must wear a face covering whilst in school unless you are exempt.
- We will ask you to sanitise your hands on entry to the building.
- Windows will be kept open to improve ventilation.
- We ask that you do NOT enter the school premises if you are unwell or displaying any of the 3 main Covid symptoms.
- We encourage you to do a lateral flow test prior to coming to watch a performance.

Christmas Holiday

Just to remind you that we finish on Tuesday 21st December at 1.15pm for Christmas.

School will re-open at 8.50am on Monday 10th January 2022.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 20th December – Music Showcase 9.30am

Tuesday 21st December – Whole school Mass 9.15am

Tuesday 21st December – Finish for Christmas at 1.15pm

Monday 10th January – school re-opens at 8.50am

Tuesday 11th January – Year 6 Past Productions Day in school

Wednesday 19th January 9.10am and 2.45pm – Multiplication Check information session for Year 4 parents.

Sunday 30th January 10.30am – Family Mass

On behalf of everyone at St Clare's – the staff, children, governors and the parish – we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a great New Year. We hope that you and your loved ones enjoy this very special time of year and that you all keep safe and well. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 10th January at 8.50am.

God bless,

Mrs Howe.

