



St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

08.12.23

#12

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge 'Well done!' to all our pupils for their wonderful singing, acting and reading in our performances today. It was a pleasure to watch and a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas. It was an excellent turn-out from parents, carers and other family members – thank you for supporting our pupils on this special day!

As we look ahead to our final week, our festive celebrations continue with our Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day on Wednesday 13th December. Christmas Dinner must be ordered via Squid - the menu options are now available for you to choose. This day is also a non-uniform day, where children may wear Christmas jumpers or festive clothing. There is no expectation for parents to purchase new jumpers for this day. In addition there is no monetary donation to take part. There will also be a very special visitor...

Yesterday, I sent a letter inviting parents and carers to our 'Christmas Crafting' and Coffee morning, taking place next Thursday @ 9:00am. During this coffee morning, pupils and their parents/carers will have the opportunity to create their very own Christmas decorations. There are only 30 adult spaces available and so we ask that you either call or email the school office to request a place.

This month, our Year 3 Faith in Action leader Tiara wrote the following Prayer for Advent:

Dear Lord Jesus,

During Advent, let us prepare ourselves for Jesus' birthday. Let us remember the reason that God sent Jesus, his only son, as a gift to us. This shows us that he loves us.

Also let us remember those who may not have enough food this Christmas. Those that don't have warmth and shelter and all those who are unwell.

May we help all our neighbours when we can, by providing food or giving to charity.

Amen



BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) ANNUAL COLLECTION

Last Friday Mrs Hall and the Faith in Action team reminded us that Advent is a time to celebrate, reflect, pray and reconcile. They also reminded us that it was a time to think about how we can show kindness towards others in our community and one way of doing this is to support the annual BCCS collection. Children were sent home with a collection envelope. Please donate what you can by placing any spare change into the envelope. Try to send your envelope in before the end of next week. Every penny raised can help to support a child in our diocese.

Thank you for your support!

Attendance TOP FIVE

1	St Matthew's	98.21%
2	St Teresa's	98.18%
3	St Paul's	98.11%
4	St Edmund's	98.10%
5	St Philomena's	97.50%

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club is open. To book a place for your child/ren please use our Schoolcomms booking system. If you require any help or guidance with this booking system, please contact the school office on 01708 345200.

PARKING

We kindly ask that you think about where you park, how you park and your conduct outside our school gates.

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines outside our school – these are there to keep our pupils safe.

Illegally parked cars can be reported via the following link: https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20004/parking/121/parking_tickets_and_traffic_fines/8.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS'

December 3rd was International Day of People with Disabilities. Article 23 states: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.



CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL VALUES

The core values of our school focus on high expectations for all learners, developing skills for life, encouraging good self-esteem and developing a set of core moral values based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are core to every part of our lives and are reflected in the way that we treat each other, the way that we look for every day opportunities to help those in need and in the example that we demonstrate to all those we meet.



At St Ursula's we have our School Value trophies that are given out during our weekly Achievement Assembly.

There is an award for each of our 5 values:

Faith

Respect

Kindness

Honesty

Resilience

These trophies are awarded to different pupils from Reception to Year 6, who have lived out our Gospel Values. These trophies are taken back to class and displayed on our classroom prayer tables.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS – CONGRATULATIONS!

EYFS & KS1

KS2

Faith: Alieze (Reception)

Faith: Michelle (Year 3)

Respect: Arianna (Year 1)

Respect: Hosanna (Year 4)

Kindness: Jason (Year 2)

Kindness: Maxim (Year 5)

Honesty: Obinna (Reception)

Honesty: Gabriela (Year 6)

Resilience: Riva-Mae (Year 1)

Resilience: Frank (Year 3)

"There is a great need in our days for people who know how to make a courageous testimony of the moral values taught by the Gospel." Pope Francis

Question time with our Pupil Chaplains

Hello, we are three of the chosen Pupil Chaplains (Favour, Sophie D and Holy Mary) who had the opportunity to interview Mr Ashburn who is our Headteacher. We asked Mr Ashburn several questions, which we will tell you about.

Q1. If you had to choose one of our school values that means the most to you, what would you choose and why? (Faith, Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Resilience)

"I would choose resilience. It's a value that you have to really work at and at times can be hard to live out. Nelson Mandela said "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again." I think we could all learn from that"

Q2. We have been focusing on how we gather for prayer and are looking for some ideas. What's your favourite way of gathering for prayer?

"I believe music is a great way in helping us open our hearts up to God, so when gathering for prayer I like to play one of my favourite hymns."

Q3. What's your favourite type of prayer and why?

"Prayer of Intercession. I find praying for others can bring strength and courage and also great peace of mind and heart."

Q4. What do you enjoy the most about working in a Catholic School?

"The supportive community and the Gospel values. It's why so many ex-pupils have come back to be members of staff!"

Q5. We are always looking for charities to support. Do you have any suggestions? Could you tell us more about the organisation?

"I always encourage others to support local charities and at St Ursula's we're very good at that this. A suggestion I have is Crisis, the national charity for people experiencing homelessness."

Q6. What is your favourite Bible story and why?

"When Jesus called the first disciples (Mark 1.16–20). I vividly remember learning about this story at school and being excited that this was the beginning of Jesus' 12 disciples— The hymn 'Follow me Follow me' was regularly sung too."

Q7. Our eco school councillors have asked us to ask you this question. Pope Francis published a new letter, Laudate Deum. He says that time is running out and we need to do more to support our planet. What choices do you make to support planet earth?

"I make sure that I donate any old clothing to charity shops so that it can be re-used by others rather than be binned and sent to landfill sites. It's really important that people are aware of the high quantities of raw materials used to produce the items, such as gallons of water."

We are grateful for having the opportunity to talk with Mr Ashburn.

The Pupil Chaplains.

"Whenever people listen to one another humbly and openly, their shared values and aspirations become all the more apparent. Diversity is no longer seen as a threat, but as a source of enrichment." Pope Francis

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 8+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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