



# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

15.12.23

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is a time for celebration and this week we had particular cause for celebration following the receipt of our Catholic Inspection report and achieving further awards for our work in Science and for our dedication to Children's Rights.

As you will be aware, on the 23rd and 24th November 2023 an inspection was undertaken at St Ursula's by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. The purpose of this inspections was to report on the quality of the Catholic life and mission of the school, religious education and collective worship.

During the 2 day inspection, 4 inspectors observed learning and acts of worship in each class, talked to staff, pupils and parents, analysed school data, and discussed emerging issues with the school leadership team. The inspection culminated in a written report which stated:

**"Pupils are proud of their school and are powerful ambassadors for the values of St Ursula's."**

**"It is clearly evident that the school goes the extra mile in supporting the most vulnerable families and pupils. Staff are good role models for children through their relationships and love and care for the pupils."**

**"The values of the school are exceptionally well embedded and celebrated."**

**"Relationships between home and school are exceptionally strong and are thoughtfully nurtured, particularly for the most vulnerable pupils."**

**"Parents highly value the sense of community and welcome the support and opportunities provided by the school."**

**"There is a flourishing partnership between the school and parishes."**

**"There is an embedded sense of welcome and inclusivity."**

Thank you to our parents and carers who took the time to meet with the inspectors and those who completed the survey. We truly appreciate the support you gave us during these 2 days and the support you continue to give us! A massive congratulations to our pupils for being "powerful ambassadors" and to Miss Gilligan (RE Lead) and our staff for once again demonstrating their commitment to our school community.

On Monday it was confirmed that St Ursula's had achieved a Science award, the PSQM Outreach award. Congratulations to our Science lead, Mrs Claydon. This is testament to the fantastic science work that happens at our school.

At St Ursula's we truly understand the importance of science in the primary curriculum and our vision is to make science accessible to all. As part of our outreach award we reached out and supported other schools locally and in neighbouring boroughs. We assisted them in the delivery of their science curriculum to make it more inclusive, impactful and (most importantly) enjoyable.

There are 3 available awards: PSQM, PSQM GILT & PSQM Outreach. We very proud to say that, out of hundreds of schools in this round of awards, we were one of a few that achieved the Outreach award. Again, congratulations to Mrs Claydon and all of our teachers and pupils.

The award reviewer said the following about our school:

**"There are clearly lots of good things happening at St Ursula's in primary science: Engaging, real-world, impactful projects such as food waste, linking with a school in Albania and working with the Harold Hill Wombles, these are inspiring and engaging for children and allow them to make a real difference."**



On Wednesday our UNICEF Rights Respecting assessor informed us that we had been awarded the prestigious Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award from UNICEF. We are thrilled to become one of the first schools in Havering to be awarded this Silver award. This is an amazing achievement, recognising our continued journey after having gained the Bronze award a few years ago.

This award acknowledges not only all the fantastic work that our students do, such as volunteering to support others, raising money for charity, and celebrating key events such as Cultural Diversity week and Mental Health Awareness Week, amongst others, but also the knowledge they have gained about their rights. It is commendation of the fact that St Ursula's puts children's rights at the heart of our school and has built a community of mutual respect, inspiration, and diversity.

Thank you to Mrs Whittet (Rights Respecting Lead) who has led the school on this Rights Respecting journey, and a thank you to all the pupils, parents, and staff who have supported us along the way. We look forward to working with you all as we progress onto Gold Award.

# 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

Faith: Tia (Year 1)

Respect: Anya (Year 2)

Kindness: Edgar (Reception)

Honesty: Marci (Year 1)

Resilience: Leon (Year 2)

KS2

Faith: Hosanna (Year 4)

Respect: Hayley (Year 5)

Kindness: Ella (Year 6)

Honesty: Isla (Year 3)

Resilience: Emilia (Year 4)

*"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*

# Christmas Crafting



On Thursday parents joined their children for our Coffee and Christmas Crafting session, creating Christmas baubles.

It was great fun and we will definitely be doing it again!





# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season – Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday