



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week our 'Faith Friends' from each year group led a wonderful liturgical prayer reminding us that we are now in the season of Advent – a time of reflection and preparation. We are preparing not only to receive Jesus on Christmas morning but also to remember that the Church gives us this season to remind us to slow down in the busyness of shopping, wrapping presents, Christmas parties etc.

to remember that we should also prepare ourselves to receive Jesus in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, but also to prepare our hearts for Jesus returning. As the Gospel of Matthew reminded us on the First Sunday of Advent, we should 'stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' This year, let our Advent promise be to remember what we are really preparing for: the Jesus of *history* who came to us over 2000 years ago as a vulnerable baby to save humanity, the Jesus of *mystery* who is with us and nourishes each day in the Sacraments and the Jesus of *majesty* who will come in glory at the end of days. Mission Together have an interactive children's [Advent Calendar](#) that you might like to share with your child at home to help celebrate this season. To further assist us in our Advent journey, this Sunday, 17 December, at 4:00pm you are invited to join with the parish of Holy Spirit, Marple for a Carol Concert where some of our children will be singing and reading. You are all very welcome.

This week you will have received the collective worship calendar for the Lent Term. We look forward to welcoming you to class liturgies and whole school events in the coming term. If you haven't received the calendar, please contact the school office.

WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.

FR BILL UPDATE

I reported last week that Fr Bill is unwell and has undergone open heart surgery this week. This was successful and he is now on the road to recovery. He sincerely thanks us all for our prayers, Mass offerings and well wishes. We will hopefully see him back in school in the New Year... once he has had time to fully recuperate.



EYFS NATIVITY

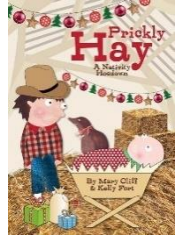


Our nativity season has started and it certainly was a joy to celebrate the Christmas story with our children in the Early Years this week as they told us about that special 'starry night in Bethlehem'. They were absolutely amazing and were all stars themselves! They really helped us get in the Christmas spirit. Special thanks to all of our Early Years staff and volunteers for helping the children put on such a high quality and dazzling retelling. Finally, thank you to you, our wonderful parents, for providing us with such amazing 'stars' to work with, who shine each and every day.



KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children look forward to welcoming you to their 'Prickly Hey' Nativity on **Wednesday 20 December at either 10:00am or 2:00pm**. We ask that only *two adults per child* come to watch each performance due to fire restrictions and the capacity of our hall. Siblings in school will have the opportunity to watch their sister or brother perform in the dress rehearsal. At the end of each performance there will be a voluntary cash collection in aid of school funds and paying the performance licence fee.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



Our post box is still out! We will do ONE delivery in the last week of term and ask all cards to be posted by **Monday 18 December**. Please remember: each card must have the **child's name and class** clearly written on the envelope to ensure correct delivery.

TERM DATES 2024 – 2025



The term dates (holiday list) for 2024 - 2025 has now been published on our school website – [please follow this link](#).

DICK WHITTINGTON PANTOMINE

On Monday the children were treated to a visiting theatre company who performed Dick Whittington. The children (and staff) had a fabulous time and it was wonderful seeing them enjoy this traditional form of theatre and immerse themselves in a drama production. Grateful thanks to our amazing PTA who fully funded this event.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

Some of the children who have received individual/group music tuition will be performing for the school on Thursday 21 December at 9:30am. If you are free, you are more than welcome to join us for a few festive renditions and to celebrate the children's hard work in music. The concert will last approximately 40 minutes.



CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES



The children will celebrate the end of term next Friday, 22 December, with their class Christmas parties. Children are welcome to come into school in party clothes on this day.

PTA NEWS



An enormous thank you to our wonderful PTA for putting on such a brilliant Christmas Fair last Friday evening. There was so much on offer and it was just fabulous to be able to welcome you all to the event. We are truly grateful for all their support and commitment in wanting to provide opportunities for the children. Thank you also to yourselves for your generosity and goodwill. All proceeds go directly to benefit pupils. Through your generosity, we have raised a superb £2,300. Amazing!

RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15 January 2024** via the [Stockport Admissions website](#). Please note: *if you child attends St Mary's Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in the school*. You will need to complete the application form using the link above by the closing date.



LITTLE DIGITAL HELPS TOOLKIT



This is a very useful toolkit for parents/carers who may be unsure about what parental features are available on their children's devices. Put together by Internet Matters and Tesco it takes around 8 minutes to answer a few questions and then receive a tailored toolkit. All details about the toolkit can be found [here](#).

ESSENTIAL PARENT – FOR STOCKPORT PARENT AND CARERS



Essential Parent is an online digital library of videos, articles and information to support you in your parenting journey from pregnancy through to parenting teens. The aim of Essential Parent is to help expectant and new parents and carers bond with their children during the early years and help those children grow into resilient, healthy and independent teenagers and adults. To sign up to Essential Parent for free, please register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/DgmFDYhs4y>

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HOME

We aim to keep in contact with our families on a frequent basis to keep you informed and up to date. We do this through different methods:

- ✓ Our weekly Friday bulletin (accessible online through our website and emailed out weekly).
- ✓ Announcements and updates from our class teachers (on the class Teams pages).
- ✓ Weekly class newsletters and knowledge webs from each year group (on the class Teams pages)
- ✓ SRSCMAT (Trust) newsletters (accessible online on our website and emailed out)
- ✓ Other key information and letters may be sent out from the school office via email.



Please check emails/Teams often to keep informed about what's going on at school, and to actively encourage your child to participate in classroom and extracurricular activities where possible. If you are struggling to access any of these methods, please let us know so we can help.

THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date | Event |
|--------------------|---|
| | <i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. (New events added in bold.)</i> |
| 17 December | Carols at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (4:00pm). All welcome. |
| 19 December | Y4/Y5 Swimming Gala. |
| 20 December | Y1 and Y2 Nativity. 10:00am and 2:00pm. Two adults per child per performance please. |
| 21 December | Christmas Music Concert at 9:30am in the school hall. |
| 22 December | Class Christmas parties. Children can wear party clothes. |
| 22 December | Carol Concert. 1:30pm. All welcome. |
| 22 December | School closes for the Christmas break. |
| 4 January 2024 | School reopens following the Christmas break. |
| 15 January | Closing date for Reception place admissions. Stockport Admissions website |
| 15 January | Year 5 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome. |
| 20 January | Cross Country at Woodbank Park. |
| 22 January | Year 6 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome. |
| 31 January | Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames A-L) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall. |
| 1 February | Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames M-Z) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall. |
| 5 February | Year 2 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome. |
| 9 February | Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn. 1:15 |
| 9 February | End of half term celebration assembly. 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome. |
| 9 February | School closes for the February half term break. |
| 19 February | School reopens following the February half term break. |
| 26 February | Trust INSET day. School closed for children. |

**Carol concert at Holy Spirit church – 4:00pm this Sunday (17 December).
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**