

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

13th December 2024

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2024.

Once more the school, with the support of Deacon Michael, has embraced the message of Advent. We have prepared for the coming birth of Jesus both in our classrooms, in our performances and in our hearts. Throughout Advent, we have been waiting not just for Christmas festivities, presents and good food, but for the coming of our Lord.

Advent means Coming. We watch and wait in hope, prepare a way for the Lord and long for his coming to dispel our darkness. Advent is also a time when, to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming, we look at our lives and repent for the times when we have not let his light shine through us. In this the final newsletter, I will share some of the ways the children's humanity and joy have been expressed over Advent.

Catholic Life of the School

From the very youngest to the oldest, the children have been thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. They have been encouraged to put out of their minds the festivities to come and think about the birth of Jesus, amongst such humble surroundings.

Participation in Family Prayer group has continued to grow and children and parents have enjoyed taking 15 minutes out of their Friday to reflect on Jesus' message and the meaning of his birth.

Throughout the school, the story of Christmas has been told, understood and presented in many ways, not least through the lovely Nativity and Advent services still to come.

The Wednesday Word

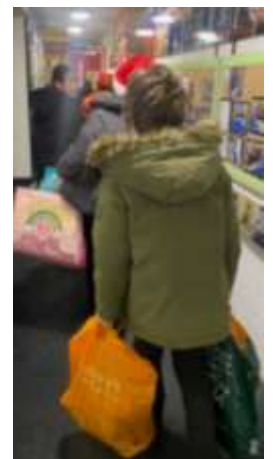
The word is **Mercy**.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus. He tells them to share with others and to show mercy – to put people (not money or power) first; to feel for those who suffer and to do something to help. Within the Catholic Church, these actions, attending to people's basic needs, are known as Corporal (or physical) Works of Mercy.

School Council Food collection and donation

"The school council organised a thoughtful initiative to support the local community by donating food to a nearby food bank. Over the past few weeks, students, parents, and staff generously contributed non-perishable items, such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and snacks, to the collection. The school council worked diligently to sort and pack the donations, ensuring that everything was organised and ready for delivery.

On Tuesday, members of the school council, accompanied by a teacher, personally delivered the donations to the food bank. They were warmly received by the food bank staff, who expressed gratitude for the school's efforts. The council members also had the opportunity to learn more about how their contributions would help families in need. This act of kindness demonstrated the school's commitment to fostering empathy, teamwork, and community spirit among its students." **Miss Smith**



Teacher Lunch Day

It wasn't just the children who have been sharing with others. "Thanks to the generous donations raised through our uniform sales, cake sales, and other activities, we FOSH successfully hosted a Teacher Lunch Day on Friday, 5th December 2024. Over 60 staff members enjoyed a wonderful feast, which was a great way to show our appreciation." **Patricia FOSH**

Thank you so much to Patricia. It was such a treat!!

Plans are currently in action for FOSH to support the children returning to regular swimming at the Latchmere. This is made possible through the parents supporting the organisation.

Middle East Emergency Appeal

This year Sacred-Heart has undertaken an important initiative—a fundraising effort that reflects the true spirit of this season.

Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of the preferential option for the poor. This principle does not mean excluding others but calls us to prioritise those who are most in need of our solidarity and compassion.

CAFOD is helping local aid workers to give urgent help such as food, water and shelter to families in Lebanon and Gaza, the West Bank and Israel.

We can raise money to support this emergency. The children will bring home a small envelope from CAFOD for the money.

Thank you very much for your support

Pupils sharing their talents

Sacred Heart has always prided itself on its sporting and musical traditions.

The sharing of talents and bringing joy to others through performance and music is central to life of the school – not just in Advent – but throughout the year.

Nowhere was that more evident than in yesterday's music concert. It brought together the work of all the different tutors and groups in the school and allowed children to display the skills that they have acquired over time—showcasing a variety of instruments (including the wonderful voices of the Sacred Heart Choir). It also gave them the opportunity to play in different surroundings and to entertain a supportive and appreciative audience.





Mr Cronin's classical guitarists sharing their talents and joy with the residents of Battersea Place Retirement Village.

London Fire Brigade visits

Christmas-time sees an upturn in callouts to the fire service due to candles, tinsel and too many electrical appliances.

Year 2 and 5 both had visits from London Fire Brigade today. Paul from the Education Services Department spoke to all classes about the importance of fire prevention, and what to do if they find a fire in their homes. Everyone in London is eligible for free advice and smoke alarms from LFB, who will fit them into your homes free of charge.

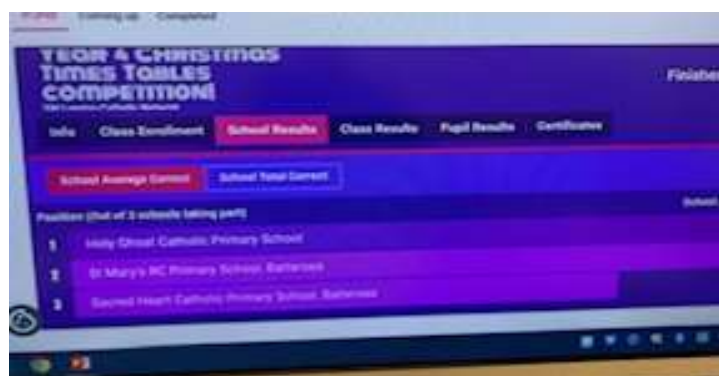
<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/smoke-alarms-and-heat-alarms/>



All children in these year groups will be coming home with some information on fire safety plans and on the free 'Home fire safety visits' which London Fire Brigade offer.

Times Tables Competition

At the end of Year 4 the children have to sit a national multiplication test. They have been working hard this term to learn their tables. One of the best ways is to practise on Times Tables Rockstars. This week the three schools that I lead have been competing against each other. The competition ends today at 4pm. When I last looked this was the current state of play...



It has been a great week and I'm sure the Advent Service, Nativities and parties will bring the year to a wonderful conclusion.

It only remains for me to thank you on behalf of all the staff for all your support, cards and gifts and to wish you and your families a peaceful, merry Christmas.

See you in 2025. School starts back on Monday 6th January.