

15th December 2023

Dear Parents

It has been an extremely busy week and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with nativities from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as a Carol Service at Church from Years 3 & 4. I am looking forward to the service on Monday evening with Years 5 & 6. Congratulations to all the children and staff who have worked so hard on these performances and a huge thank you to parents who have contributed over £1,000 in the retiring collections which will be used on resources for school.

Food Bank – I received a lovely message from St Monica's Church Food Bank earlier this week.



I wanted to say a big thank you, to you and your staff and all the children and their parents for their generous donation to the foodbank at Harvest Festival. We kept this money back and used it to buy children presents for Christmas Hampers, which we have started to distribute this week. Again, thank you and all at the school for the difference you have made to those less fortunate than ourselves. Gerard Bell

Chess Club – We run a Chess Club during Friday lunch times and Tomer organised a national chess competition a few weeks ago. The A team came 24th out of 31 in a very tough 'Premier Division' which included some of the strongest school teams in the country while the B team managed 31st out of 54 in the 'Championship' Division (or Division 2) despite being a player short! Well done to the A-team: Edward Corcoran, Vito Hehir, Aidan Jagdev, James Luck, Benjamin Madike, Franciszek Ratajczak and Finlay Wheeler. Also to the B-team: Michael Cosh, Laith Delgado, Milo Phelps Varlotta and Xavier Seeboruth. Tomer will invite us again and I'm sure our teams will go from strength to strength!

Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) – Thanks very much to all those who have donated items for our OPAL project! If you have a clear out over the holiday, please send in any unwanted clothes that could be used for dressing up, old pans and non-breakables for the mud kitchen and any other items such as wooden building blocks, duplo etc. We will continue to mix the children from infants and juniors during every morning break and then from January slowly introduce the new play areas.

Parents' Night Out! – Thank you to The Friends for organising a fun evening for parents at the King's Head last Friday night. I hear that our parents Nacho and Fanos made great DJs; it was a really lovely night and raised in the region of £1,500!

Non-Uniform Day! – Congratulations to joint winning teams St John (yellow) and St Francis (green) who won the most house points this half term. Those children can come to school wearing their own clothes on Monday.

Reconciliation – Thank you to local priests Fr David, Fr Daniel and Fr Tom Ford for coming in on Thursday to provide the Children in Year 5 with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Diary Dates

Monday 18th December – Christmas dinner day – children wear uniform (except winning House Teams St John and St Francis) – no need to bring packed lunch if you have booked a Christmas dinner on SchoolGrid

Monday 18th December 3.45pm – Christmas Carols around the tree! Parents are invited to listen to the choir and strings group in the main school hall.

Monday 18th 7pm Carol Service with children from Years 5 & 6 – children to arrive by 6:45pm wearing full school uniform (but leave jumpers/cardigans/coats with family) – children please meet in the Newman room to prepare to process into the church.

Tuesday 19th December - Panto Day! The children will have the opportunity to attend a pantomime in school – thanks to The Friends for paying for this treat! School uniform as usual.

Wednesday 20th December – School closes at 1pm for the Christmas holiday

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher