

24th November 2023

Dear Parents

When I was a child, my dad's mantra was "give until it hurts". It's something I've been reminded of this week as I realise we've been asking so much from all of you – but the generosity demonstrated is truly overwhelming. Mrs Day held a successful cake sale with the Brownies after Mass on Sunday and sold the remaining cakes after school on Monday – making a fantastic contribution to the £15 million they need for 2 new air ambulances! Also on Monday, we had asked for cash donations for the Christmas Hamper Appeal (Help for Hunger) and a staggering £450 was raised for this. I know many of you are also contributing items for the hampers. There is a giving day for this on 28th when you can take items directly to the Intimate Theatre (next door to St Monica's Church). In addition, Mrs Roper had a raffle running this week and continuing next week for an animal charity which was prompted by some conversations with children. Finally today, we were overwhelmed by the bottle donations given for the bottle tombola at the Christmas Bazaar, that will certainly be a stall worth visiting on 2nd December! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

School Council – Over the last few weeks children from Year 1 upwards had been writing their manifestos, gathering supporters and finally casting their secret ballots for their new School Councillors. Last Monday we were delighted to announce our new councillors as follows: 1Y: Dimitar & Isabella, 1G: Samuel & Josie, 2Y: Grace & Oscar, 2G: William & Rose, 3Y: Rosie & Malachy, 3G: Frances & Dylan, 4Y: Celia & Sonny, 4G: Aoibhe & Ethan, 5Y: Mikey & Maria, 5G: Aidan & Allegra, 6Y: Dylan & Kaodi and 6G: Max & Zinachi. They have already met with Mrs Weston and will be instrumental in providing a conduit between the voice of their class mates and the staff and will be involved in many decisions over the coming months. Warm congratulations to them all.

Retreat days – Year 6 went to St Monica's church for two retreat days this week. They reflected on the importance of leadership through studying saints and famous leaders and thought about how they could become leaders of the future. They also had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you to Fr David for leading these two special days.

St Cecilia Choir and Strings Concert – On Monday morning the choir sang for the school as a dress rehearsal for the evening's St Cecilia Choir concert. Everyone was uplifted by the glorious singing! A big thank you to Mr Charles-Nelson for a thoroughly entertaining performance. Then on Thursday morning, Lynne's strings group performed to the school and parents

Road Safety – On Tuesday and Wednesday the children had assemblies about Road Safety. Ask them if they can remember the Green Cross Code. They were also told not to walk on the road, but to use pavements as you never know when a vehicle might be approaching. This applies to Cannon Road and all the roads in the LTN – it's a LOWER traffic neighbourhood, not a NO traffic neighbourhood.

Pet Photo Competition – For all you pet lovers, the new Friends committee are running a Christmas competition! Take a photo of your pet (or if you don't have a pet, draw/create one) and submit it by 12th December. Winners will be in the following categories: Most Festive Pet, Silliest Pet, Cutest Pet, Me & My Pet, My Dream Pet. All the details about where to submit your entry can be found here <https://app.goodhub.com/christmaspetphoto2023> We look forward to seeing your entries.

Lego workshop – If your child would like to take part in a lego workshop at the Christmas Bazaar, see the flier attached. A new after school lego club will be starting in January on Fridays – more details coming soon!

Diary Dates

Friday 1st Dec – non-uniform day in exchange for jars of sweets (no nuts) and home-made bakes/cakes

Saturday 2nd Dec- Christmas Bazaar-12-4

Friday 8th Dec after school until 4.30pm - Christmas Disco – click the link to donate £4 per ticket

<https://app.goodhub.com/kidschristmasdisco2023>

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher