

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts

Monday 12th December 2022

Dear Parents,

Advent 2 Newsletter 2

What a wonderful (if chilly!) Advent we have had so far in school. The children have participated beautifully in their daily Advent liturgical prayer, and the Christmas craft day for all the children was a great success. The school was very much alive in all classes with Christmas songs, activities and joy last Friday! As we have a very busy couple of weeks coming up, please take the time to read the important information below.

Supper with Santa

Thank you for your support in making this such a successful event for our Reception and KS1 children. They certainly seemed to enjoy it and Santa commented how polite and well-behaved the children were. They were displaying some amazing dance moves too! Thank you to Friends of Christ the King for organising this for the children and thank you to the staff who were able to stay and help make it possible.

Nativity and Christmas concerts

It has been exciting to be able to return to normality with our Nativity and Christmas concerts this year after so much Covid disruption since 2020. The children have been working hard to learn their songs and lines and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers into school to enjoy these. As usual, our KS2 children will be performing in our summer production, now that all restrictions have been lifted, and we will look forward to this at the end of the year. Please do not worry if it is difficult for siblings to attend the shows. As part of our long list of Christmas activities and events for all the children, they will be the audience for the children's dress rehearsals, and will therefore get to experience the shows in school.

A reminder of timings for each performance:

KS1 – Wednesday 14th December – 1.30pm and 5pm

EYFS – Monday 19th December – (Reception and Nursery) – 9.45am and 5pm

Please contact Friends of Christ the King to request tickets. Thank you for supporting this event.

Christmas party day

Our Christmas dinner day is on Wednesday 21st December. We are treating this as a party day for the children in school and therefore the children can come in non-uniform with any festive clothes or accessories welcome.

Pantomime (Oh yes it is!)

We are excited to announce that we have the pantomime Aladdin coming to school for all our children on Thursday 22nd December in the morning (9.30am – 11.00am). This will be free to all, as our wonderful PTA – Friends of Christ the King – are very kindly going to pay for this as a Christmas treat for the children.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Christmas end of term Mass

This will take place on Thursday 22nd December at 1.30pm in school. **All are welcome!** Parents will be able to collect their children after this. We are looking forward to finishing our busy term with a time of quiet reflection and prayer, celebrated by the children with their wonderful reading and singing.

12 Acts of Kindness

In school, we have been having a real focus on kindness during Advent – preparing our hearts for Jesus' birth at Christmas. This has been taught in class PSHE lessons and has also been linked to being kind in any interactions that are taking place in person or via messages, apps or games that the children may be using. We thank you for your support in helping to model this example to the children, so that they understand that what is said in a message is the same as what is said to somebody's face. Further learning about kindness has led the Y3 children to write letters to our local care-home for the residents and our choir will be singing at the Parish lunch on Friday.

Curriculum focus

Our curriculum is so jam-packed that the children have been continuing to work extremely hard during their lessons, alongside some of the extra festive activities. This is really important to ensure that their knowledge continues to build and that any gaps in learning are addressed. We have worked hard to strike a balance between a range of Advent and Christmas experiences for the children and the need for their learning to be prioritised and to continue throughout this time. Next term our curriculum golden thread, which drives all our learning, is Sustainability and Stewardship. We will be asking our Pupil Voice committee to begin to establish an Eco Club for the children, so please encourage them to look out for this.

Attendance

Due to high levels of holidays having been taken this term, the Governors and I have made the decision that all holidays, except for those exceptional circumstances outlined in our policy, will be sent to the Local Authority for a fine from January onwards. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, but seeing the impact these holidays have over time on the children's learning means that this is the next step to reducing these. Thank you for your support and understanding in booking holidays during school holiday time.

Key dates for the rest of term:

Tuesday 13th December – Advent praise through song – 2.45pm

Wednesday 14th December – KS1 concert at 1.30pm and 5pm – more details to follow

Thursday 15th December – Advent liturgical prayer led by our chaplain, Joe – 9.15am

Monday 19th December – EYFS nativity – 9.45am and 5pm – more details to follow

Tuesday 20th December – Advent praise through song – 2.45pm

Wednesday 21st December – Christmas dinner day – festive non-uniform / accessories

Thursday 22nd December – Last day of term – Advent liturgy and carols – all welcome – 1.30pm

Term dates for the rest of the year, including INSET:

A reminder that school begins again on Monday 9th January 2023.

Last day of term – Thursday 16th February

INSET (school closed to children) - Friday 17th February

Back to school – Monday 27th February

Last day of term – Thursday 30th March

INSET (school closed to children) – Friday 31st March
Back to school – Monday 17th April

Bank Holiday – Monday 1st May – school closed
Extra Bank Holiday (King's Coronation) – Monday 8th May – school closed

KS2 assessment week: Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May

Last day of term – Friday 26th May

INSET (school closed to children) – Monday 5th June

Back to school – Tuesday 6th June

Last day of term – Friday 21st July

Finally, I wanted to remind you of the message that went out on the app last week from all the adults in school:

*At this wonderful time of year, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, we wanted to issue a plea to you all. Whilst we are always grateful for your appreciation, your kind words and lovely cards are more than enough. Please do not spend your money on us – keep it for a rainy day or put it towards something for your family (or even a treat for yourselves or your children!)
We truly mean this.*

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful festive break and thank you, once again, for your continued support.

M. Watts

Mrs M. Watts
Headteacher