



Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we heard the Parable of the Talents. We discussed how God wants us to use our gifts and talents to share them with others. We spoke about ways in school we can share our talents and help others including sharing our passion for Science as Science ambassadors, our love of sports as Sports ambassadors or our love of singing in our choirs. We introduced the Mini Vinnies for children in Year 3 and 4, who 'turn concern into action' which is what we are called to do as Catholics. We have been delighted to have so many children interested and cannot wait to see the good they will do to help others.



A message from The Hope Food Bank we supported over Harvest:

I just wanted to say a really HUGE thank you for donating your Harvest Festival items to The Hope Food Bank @ Kings Road Church. Please do pass on my grateful thanks to your staff, pupils and their families for their incredible generosity in supporting those in food poverty across Berkhamsted.

An amazing NINE Berkhamsted Schools and one nursery collaborated with us this year and we collected an incredible total of £3,500 worth of food! So, thank you again for playing your part in helping us to help those in need in our community.

Abi in Year 5 is collecting old football boots, football socks, trainers and shin pads:

Some children in South Africa play football without any shoes on. If you have any football boots, football socks, trainers or shin pads that you have grown out of or don't use anymore, it would keep children's feet from being injured if you could donate ones you don't use anymore.

There will be a box in Year 5 for any donations. Thank you.

Sports Update Miss Addison:

Netball – on Tuesday, the girls' netball team played against Bridgewater. There was excellent sporting behaviours shown and a close end result with a score of 8-7 to Bridgewater.

Table Tennis – We are thrilled to announce that our U11 table tennis team had a fantastic performance at the Hertfordshire Table Tennis Tournament representing Dacorum. Benji, Henry, Raphael, and Freddie, all from Year 6, showed off their impressive skills and dedication in this thrilling competition. They played some tough matches but came out on top in their pool, securing a spot in the final match against Haberdashers. Although they narrowly missed out on first place, our boys gave it their all and put up an amazing fight, ultimately finishing in second place with a final score of 3-5. We couldn't be prouder of this outstanding achievement. Well done to the boys for their hard work, determination, and fantastic representation of Dacorum!



OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning - *Amazing play, every day, for every child*

We are delighted to share that we are the first school in Berkhamsted to begin the process of becoming an OPAL school. Thank you to the **10 families** who have shared their experiences and opinions, if you have a few minutes, we would appreciate your response to our baseline parents' survey to allow us to see the impact on playtimes as we embark on this journey. The survey can be found [here](#). Thank you.



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Christmas Art Competition

Like last year, the school council wish to run an art competition with entries displayed at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th December. Children across the school are welcome to create a piece of art linked to the theme of 'Christmas'. **Entries will need to be in school on Friday 8th December** to be displayed for the fayre. There will be prizes for the best in each phase: Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4, Year 5 and 6 as well as a prize for the class with the most entries.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **95.56%** this week. Thank you for your support.

Reception	91.63%	Year 4	93.49%
Year 1	96.67%	Year 5	97.12%
Year 2	100%	Year 6	89.38%
Year 3	97.70%		

Congratulations to Year 2 who achieved the highest attendance again this week!

Reception Tours – September 2024 start

Come and see our wonderful school! Our remaining school tour for Reception children beginning September 2024 will be running on Friday 1st December @ 9.15am.

Please contact the school office via admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk if you wish to attend, arrange an alternative or if you have any further questions about the application process.

STMSA News

Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help at this afternoon's KS2 Cinema Club! We hope the children had a great time!

Christmas Cinema Clubs - 1st Dec

The Reception and KS1 Cinema Club will take place on Friday 1st December however we still need volunteers to ensure this event goes ahead. Please can you let your class rep know if you can help.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 9th December 2-5pm

Don't forget to bring in your donations next week to the office.

Items to be donated in w/c 27th November:

- Hamper items (class specific - see your class WhatsApp groups)
- Lucky Jars (a jar filled with sweets or bags of sweets)
- Decorations or lights that you no longer need
- Secrets Room (new/unused re-gifted items for adults)
- Bottle Tombola (from shampoo to whiskey!)

Each year group will be also running a class stall and we please need volunteers to set up, staff the stall, and clear away. Details on slots needed have been sent out on the class groups and please let your class rep know if you are able to help on your class stall on the day. As this is a family event we know you will all have your children with you, and it's fine to have them 'helping' (!) you on the stall, or perhaps you can take turns with other parents to keep an eye on each other's children.

We hope to see many families there on the day.

Community News:

Feast of Christ the King / Youth Sunday – 26th November

Sunday 26th November is the feast of Christ the King and Youth Sunday. Families are warmly invited to join us at the 10am Mass at Sacred Heart church in Berkhamsted to celebrate this joyful occasion.

Celebrate Nativity Event – our parish event with a difference

Saturday 2nd Dec 2:30pm – 5pm at St Thomas More School



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Join us for an afternoon of fun activities for all the family: live music, team games, prizes, a feast, mulled wine and a take home party bag! £15 for a family ticket, £7.50 per person available [here](#). See full size poster attached for information.

Candlelit Advent Carol Service and Corpus Christi, Tring

A message from Mr Dewey:

We are having a candlelit Advent Carol Service at Corpus Christi, Tring, on Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm (the First Sunday of Advent). Please join us as we begin this season of preparation. There will be readings, carols for all to sing and pieces by the choir.

Prayer at Home

Hopefully you and your families are enjoying the Prayer at Home resources. They are all available on our school website [here](#).

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

November

27/11/23 Occasional Day – School closed

December

1/12/23	Reception Tour @ 9.15am – 2024 cohort
1/12/23	Cinema Club (KS2 – STMSA)
1/12/23	Wreath Making (STMSA)
2/12/23	Sacred Heart 'Celebrate' Parish Party at St Thomas More 2.30-5pm (see flyer)
4/12/23	KS1 Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (families welcome, limited capacity)
6/12/23	KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am (families welcome)
8/12/23	Year 2 & KS2 Pantomime Trip
9/12/23	Christmas Fayre (STMSA)
11/12/23	EYFS Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (families welcome, limited capacity)
12/12/23	EYFS Nativity @ 9.30am (families welcome)
13/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (families welcome, limited capacity)
14/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert @ 6pm (families welcome)
18/12/23	School Christmas dinner – children to wear school uniform with a Christmas jumper on top if they wish
19/12/23	EYFS and Year 1 Pantomime Trip
20/12/23	End of term – school finishes at 1.30pm

January

4/1/24 and 5/1/24	INSET Days – school closed
8/1/24	Start of term – children back to school

Have a lovely weekend,
Miss Lally
Assistant Headteacher



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