



Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week the Chaplaincy Team launched their 'Pray Every Day' Advent calendar. They created this resource to help children and families focus on the meaning and purpose of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. We hope you enjoy this resource and we thank the Chaplaincy Team for their ideas and effort in helping create it. You will find a copy of it shared with this newsletter.



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.

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 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.

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 Thursday 7th December** to be displayed for the fayre. There will be prizes for the best in each phase. Further information can be found below.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **93.56%** this week.

Reception	94.18%	Year 4	96.08%
Year 1	96.05%	Year 5	91.62%
Year 2	95.39%	Year 6	91.48%
Year 3	91.18%		

Congratulations to Year 4 who achieved the highest attendance this week!

Community News:

Celebrate Nativity Event – our parish event with a difference

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

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](#).



STMSA News

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated parents who volunteered their time at last week's KS2 Cinema Club! Regrettably, today's Reception & KS1 Cinema Club had to be cancelled due to low attendance, but we're optimistic about rescheduling it for the New Year.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday, 9th December, 2-5 pm

Donations:

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed donations this week. If you haven't had the chance yet, please drop off your items at the office on Monday. We are still in need of:

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

Class Stalls:

Each year group is hosting a class stall, and we're still in need of volunteers to assist - info on required slots has been shared on class groups. Every 30 minutes helps and will allow other parents the chance to enjoy the fair with their families too.

Pre-Bookings:

Beat the rush for Santa's Grotto visits, face-painting by pre-booking through via this QR code:



Class Enterprise:

Your children have poured their creativity into crafting Christmas items. You can pre-order these delightful creations for convenient collection at the fair using the same QR code above. Avoid the last-minute hustle and secure your festive treasures in advance!

School Christmas Art Competition - deadline for entries is Thursday 7th December

The School Council run competition is back by popular demand and winners and prizes for different age groups will be announced at the Christmas fayre on 9th December. Get crafty over the weekend and make anything Christmas themed - junk modelling, painting, sewing, sculpture, drawing, collage etc. Special prize for the class with the most entries.

Following in the footsteps of our successful Table Tennis players -

Table tennis coaching

- Chiltern hills academy HP5 2RG
- Courses aimed at 9 to 14 year olds (beginners / improvers welcome)
- Daily 1000 to 1230 THURSDAY 21 to FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER inclusive £18
- Daily 1000 to 1230 WEDNESDAY 27 to FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER inclusive £27
- Contact: Mike Atkinson (UKCC Level 2 Table Tennis Licenced Coach)
 - mike.atkinson@tabletennisengland.co.uk
 - Phone: 01494 785609

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](#).



Learning to love, live and celebrate as we grow in the knowledge and love of Christ.



Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

December

2/12/23	Sacred Heart 'Celebrate' Parish Party at St Thomas More 2.30-5pm
4/12/23	KS1 Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
6/12/23	KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome</i>)
8/12/23	Year 2 & KS2 Pantomime Trip
9/12/23	Christmas Fayre (STMSA)
11/12/23	EYFS Nativity Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
12/12/23	EYFS Nativity @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome</i>)
13/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert Dress rehearsal @ 9.30am (<i>families welcome, limited capacity</i>)
14/12/23	KS2 Carol Concert @ 6pm (<i>families welcome</i>)
18/12/23	School Christmas dinner – <i>children to wear school uniform with a Christmas jumper on top if they wish</i>
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 5/1/23	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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