



Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath, talking about the ways in which we prepare during Advent such as putting up decorations, praying more often and readying ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

We have been using our Pray Every Day Advent calendars kindly created by our school Chaplaincy Team.

The Mini Vinnies met this week to create Christmas cards. These will be distributed by volunteers of Under One Sky, a charity who seek to end homelessness and remind people living on the streets that they have not been forgotten about this festive season. There will be retiring collections for them at the end of our Nativities and Carol Concert.



On Wednesday we had the pleasure of the KS1 Nativity – Jesus in the Manger. The children sang, danced and acted with such confidence and reminded us superbly of the importance of the Christmas story. Thank you to all the Year 1 and 2 staff who helped prepare the children so well.

We look forward to our EYFS Nativity and KS2 Carol concert this week. Dates and timings can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

Christmas Art Competition

Thank you to all those who have participated in the Christmas Art Competition. All entries will be on display during the **Christmas Fayre tomorrow from 2-5pm**.

Christmas Fayre

Please join our school community tomorrow at our Christmas Fayre from 2-5pm. A huge thank you to the army of organisers and parent volunteers who have arranged all of the stalls and activities for us to enjoy. The children have made items to be sold on their 'enterprise stalls'. It is set to be a wonderful event.

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **96.33%** this week. Thank you for your support.

Reception	87.10%	Year 4	97.59%
Year 1	97.66%	Year 5	95.56%
Year 2	96.84%	Year 6	96.00%
Year 3	95.52%		

Congratulations to Year 1 who achieved the highest attendance this week!

Community News:

The Annual Carol Service in aid of The Hospice of St Francis will take place at 6.30pm on **Saturday 16th December 2023** at The Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted. Our school choir will be singing at this event. Please join us in supporting this worthy cause. Free entry/ donations on the door/ refreshments in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Prayer at Home

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



STMSA News

We are delighted to fund the trip this week for the children in Yr2 to 6 to see a pantomime in Radlett.

Wreath Making

Last Friday the school hall was filled with parents and friends of the school busy making beautiful Christmas wreaths. A huge thank you to Liz Jaggs and Sarah Hennis for all their hard work organising a lovely festive evening.

Santa's Sleigh

Thank you to Dan Trowbridge, Alex Moshakis, Alan Walsh, Brian Nichol, Mark Hilsdon and Chris Hammond who braved the cold to accompany the Rotary Santa's Sleigh on 28th November.

STMSA AGM

Please put Friday 19th January 2024 in your diaries for the STMSA AGM. We are looking for a volunteer chair / co-chairs to take over in January. Please do let us know if you are interested.

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

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Christmas Fayre. Thank you for contributing items and volunteering to help at the event.

There is still time to beat the queues and pre book your visit to Santa's Grotto and for face painting at

www.pta-events.co.uk/stmsa

Your children have poured their creativity into crafting Christmas items which you can buy from the same website above.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the playground after school on Friday and at the Fayre. We have some great prizes from local businesses along with our fantastic hampers.

Calendar dates:

Autumn Term:

December

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 5/1/23

INSET Days – school closed

8/1/24

Start of term – children back to school

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Lally

Assistant Headteacher



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

