



Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Families,

Catholic Life of the School

This week we started our Spring Term with our Epiphany Celebration. Thank you to the children and families who made beautiful stars over the Christmas break which took pride of place during our celebration, reminding us of the Star of Bethlehem which was followed by the Wise Men. The chaplaincy team led us in our prayers and readings as we reflected on the faith of the Magi which led them to Jesus. Thank you to the families who joined us for this celebration.

This week in RE in Years 1-6, children have been learning about 'other faiths' with a focus on Islam. In Sharing Assembly on Friday, classes shared their learning during the week, recognising key beliefs, similarities and differences. Thank you to the children and staff who helped bring our learning to life through the sharing of their beliefs.



Reception Application Deadline – Monday 15th January

Parents/carers who wish to apply for Reception places for September 2024, please be aware the deadline for all Reception class places is Monday 15th January

OPAL Update

This week we had our first 'Play Assembly'. This is where we discuss our playtimes, what is working well, what is changing and how we can reduce risk in our play. We recognised that equipment isn't dangerous, but can be if we use it improperly. We shared our Play Charter which we have displayed on our new OPAL noticeboard. Today we had our first 'Free Play Friday' where children had access across both of our playgrounds all lunchtime. The children had enormous amounts of fun and it was wonderful to see so many of the older children supporting the play of the younger children with one remarking, "this is such a great idea!" We look forward to developing our play further so we can have amazing lunchtimes.

End of Day Dismissal

A reminder that school staff will be unable to release children to a different adult/person collecting if this information has not been shared with the school by the parent or guardian of the child. Please ensure any changes in pick up routine are relayed to the office and/or classroom staff ahead of time as well as any changes to regular routines including childminder collection. Thank you

First Aid

A letter was shared earlier this week explaining the coloured forms and bands which children now receive for accidents or injuries. Please speak to a member of staff if you would like any further details or information.

Author Visit and book sale

On Monday and Tuesday next week (15th and 16th), we are very fortunate to be being visited by an author who will run workshops for our pupils throughout the day. After school on Monday and Tuesday, they plan to have their books for sale outside (weather permitting).



Class Reps

Thank you to the class reps who braved the cold to meet this week. As always it is great to hear parent voice about our school community and to share the ways in which we are continuing to drive school improvement. The meeting has been minuted and, once finalised, minutes will be shared.

Thank you

Thank you to the Nichol and Trowbridge families who helped to organise and sponsor our Girls' Football Team kit. We are grateful for your support in arranging this sponsorship.

Milk List

Last term communication was shared asking parents to let us know if you would like your child to receive milk. This is to help reduce the huge amounts of milk wastage. Please let the office know if you would like your child to receive milk but did not yet respond. Thank you

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **94.46%** this week.

Reception	94.76%	Year 4	90.49%
Year 1	93.68%	Year 5	98.52%
Year 2	99.47%	Year 6	92.8%
Year 3	92.76%		

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

STMSA News

Welcome back - we hope it is a great Spring Term for our community!

Bags2School - Tuesday 23rd January

Our next Bags2School drop is on **Tuesday 23rd** - please start collecting any items for donation. Full list of items that can be donated can be found here: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect> - all bags can be brought into the office from Monday 22nd.

AGM

The AGM was meant to be 19th January but a large number of the STMSA Committee couldn't make that date, so we've had to move the date to **24th January 7.30pm**. All parents (on the committee or not) are encouraged to join us at this event where full details of our fundraising activities and plans for 2024 will be discussed, as well as the voting in of our new chair(s). Please keep this date free in your diary and we hope to see you there!

January 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Bill Readman 2nd (£50) Marina Burke 3rd (£25) Terri-Ann Nichol

Community News:

The Annual Carol Service in aid of The Hospice of St Francis will take place at 6.30pm on **Saturday 16th**

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:

January

15/1/24

18/1/24

Reception Applications close for September 2024

Year 5 Young Voices trip to the O2



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



23/1/24 Bags2School collection (STMSA)
24/1/24 STMSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) @ 7.30pm – *all welcome*

February

2/2/24 Number Day
7/2/24-9/2/24 Year 5 Trip to St Cassian's Centre
14/2/24 Ash Wednesday – Mass in school @ 2.15pm – *families welcome*
19/2/24-23/2/24 Half Term
27/2/24-1/3/24 Book Fayre after school

March

7/3/24 World Book Day – pyjama theme
11/3/24 Science Week
20/3/24 Parent Consultation Evening
26/3/24 Start of Holy Week
26/3/24 Year 3 & 4 Easter Production Dress Rehearsal @ 9.30am – *families welcome, limited capacity*
27/3/24 Year 3 & 4 Easter Production @ 6pm – *families welcome*
28/3/24 End of Term @ 1.30pm

April

15/4/24 INSET Day – school closed to pupils
16/4/24 Start of term for pupils

Have a lovely weekend,
Miss Lally
Assistant Headteacher



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