

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 4: Monday 21st November 2016

Travelling Cribs-Bethlehem Advent Project



This year the school has purchased from Pax Christi a number of Holy Family Crib sets. These beautiful olivewood Holy Family sets are made by craftsmen in Bethlehem and are to help to focus the children and their families on the coming of the Prince of Peace, and bring Bethlehem alive for the children.

The idea of the project is to encourage prayer and reflection on the coming of the Prince of Peace at Christmas and to raise awareness that Bethlehem is a living place today, its people in need of prayer and support. During Advent (Advent begins on Sunday 27th November) each child will

take the class Holy Family crib set home for a night for family prayer and discussion. Families are then invited to write some reflection or comment on the experience in a diary booklet. Sets must be returned the following day to allow other pupils to take them home.

Some examples of diary responses:

*"Me and my family set the figures out with the candle. We said a beautiful poem and read some prayers."
(Isobel, Year 5)*

"We sang 'Away in a Manger', Edward was interested in the photographs of Bethlehem nowadays. He was surprised. "Does it still exist?" he asked. We reflected on other children who cannot celebrate Christmas in the way we do, because they are poor or live in countries where there is war or conflict " (Robinson Family).

Confirmation on Wednesday 23rd November 7pm

Each candidate is allocated a family bench which will have the name of the candidate on it clearly displayed. There will be only a small number of additional spaces at the back of Church. Please note we expect the Church to be full and additional spaces will be difficult to find.

Children are to wear smart clothes and candidates are asked to arrive in the Church at **6:40pm**. The sponsor is to sit directly next to the candidate

Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursday 8th December 6:30pm in the Church

Ofsted Report- 'You and Your staff put children first'

The Governors are pleased to announce that the school was judged during its one day inspection as continuing to be a **'good'** school. Parents will be emailed the report and it will also be placed on the school website. Due to it being a one day inspection a report is not published but a letter is sent to the school addressed to myself which outlines its findings and any development points. Some of the main points in the report are:

- This is a successful and inclusive school
- High levels of care and attention are provided by Head and staff for the children.
- Children are put first and pupils are consulted and involved.
- Children are well prepared for the next stage of their education beyond key stage 2.
- Leaders, staff and governors successfully promote the school's core values, 'Where everyone is special'.
- Staff and governors value pupils' efforts.
- Pupils' work and displays show improvements to the curriculum.
- Pupils use mathematics and ICT much more than previously.
- Strong leadership is provided by Head and Deputy.
- Governance has improved significantly since the previous inspection, which has helped to sustain improvements to the school.
- Sharper monitoring by leaders and governors has sustained improvements to teaching and learning since the previous inspection. Pupils' achievement is improving as a result and teaching is good throughout the school and early years.
- Standards are above average in reading, writing and mathematics by the end of key stages 1 and 2.
- A great deal has been achieved since the previous inspection to raise standards in reading and writing. In early years and key stage 1 pupils do particularly well in developing literacy skills. Teaching of phonics is very effective. The more able pupils and disadvantaged most able pupils achieve well. Effective support and intervention work enable pupils who have special education needs and/or disability to achieve well.
- Teaching Assistants support within lessons has been an area of improvement since the last inspection.
- Significant improvements have been made to the school curriculum since the last inspection. Pupils are energised by the range of work, visits, topics and enrichment experiences offered. Significant improvements include more science and technology projects, as well as more number and mathematical work. The Robotic work, computer and construction work is stunning and they quality remarkable.
- Pupils are keen to achieve well. They are interested and motivated learners who show resilience and perseverance, they behave very well in and around school.
- Sport, team games and after-school clubs enrich pupils' school experiences.
- Strong commitment to improving pupils' academic and personal development.
- Safeguarding is effective and robust.

Diary Dates

November

21 st	Reception class - eye tests
22 nd	Y2 Cinema Trip
23 rd	Confirmation 7pm (Y6)
24 th	Mass Y5 (Y6)
24 th	Reception class 'Starry night' (with parents-Mrs O'Connor will send out more information)

December

1 st	Mass Y3 (Y4)
1 st	Non Uniform day (bottle for the tombola stall)
3 rd	Christmas Bazaar 12pm
6 th	2pm Foundation/KS1 Christmas Performances
7 th	2 pm Foundation/KS1 Christmas Performances
8 th	Mass F/KS1
8 th	6:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation Y3
8 th	Years 3,4 and 5 will have the opportunity to go to confession during Advent
9 th	Year 6 trip to London
9 th	Choir singing at the Willows Nursing Home
12 th	Y5, Y6 Christmas Party
13 th	Grandparents Afternoon 1:45 (Strictly tickets only)
14 th	Key Stage 2 trip to see 'Dick Whittington' at the Belgrade
14 th	Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
15 th	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Party
15 th	Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Hatton Country World
16 th	9:30am Carol Service in church followed by end of term presentations
17 th	Choir performing at Manchester Carols in aid of Macmillan (2pm Rehearsal with a 7:30pm Start)

Return to School on Wednesday 4th January 2017