

Dear Parents and Carers,

Community Mass

This morning the children of years 4 and 5 led a community Mass to mark the beginning of Advent. The girls and boys fulfilled their roles perfectly. The children who did the readings, served on the altar and who led the offertory procession were excellent and I was very proud of them all. I was also proud of their classmates who did not have a specific role but who supported them so well by joining in with the responses and by singing and behaving so well. I would like to thank Father Paul for celebrating Mass; Mr Burt for leading the beautiful music; Miss Hardman and Miss Kipling for preparing the liturgy and Mrs Asquith for supporting the readers at church. I would also like to say a huge 'thank you' to all the parents, carers and friends of our school who joined us for this celebration, it was really wonderful to see so many of you there.

PTFA

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that there will be a PTFA meeting on Wednesday 19th December 2012. The meeting will be at 3.30pm and take place in Mr Smith's classroom. The aim is to elect a committee who will begin the important process of registering our brand new PTFA as a charity. It would be wonderful if we could get a really good turn out for this important meeting – even if you cannot commit to being available for every meeting. I have always been clear that the purpose of the PTFA is twofold:

1. to bring different people together so that everyone feels part of our community
2. to raise funds for our children

The first purpose is by far the most important.

Young Poet

This morning when I arrived at school I was greeted by an envelope on my desk. On the envelope, in the most beautiful handwriting was written: 'To Mister Barratt'. When I opened this mysterious envelope I saw there was a poem entitled 'Winter Walk' which had been written for me by a special young man in Year 4 called Thomas Wood. When I read it I was so impressed that I immediately went to his class and read it to his classmates, who were also very impressed with his skilful use of WOW words and rhyming. It was so good that I thought you would like to read it too.

Winter Walk by Thomas Wood

Colourful cars, freezing wind -
Frosty leaves and grass.
Mysterious trees, exhausting walks –
I will need a bath!

Well done Thomas, and thank you...

Athletics Finals

Some of our older children joined children from other Catholic primary schools for an indoor athletics festival at Notre dame Catholic High School. All the children tried very hard and had lots of fun. I would like to thank the overall organisers; Miss Kipling for all the time she devoted to encouraging and supporting our athletes and for making all the necessary arrangements; all the parents and carers who supported us and finally our special young athletes themselves who were an absolute credit to our school.

Statement to Live By

For the first week back after the school holiday our statement to live by will be: "***I know that Advent is a time for preparation***".

Time to talk: Together you could look at this statement and talk about what the word *preparation* means. What sorts of things do we have to prepare for in our everyday lives? Why is it important to prepare? What could happen if we do not prepare properly? Why is it important to prepare for Christmas? What sorts of kind things could we try and do during this special time?

Attendance

The classes with the best attendance for week ending 30th November were:

1. In first place was **Y6** - with a **99.6 %** attendance
2. In second place was **Y3** with a **99.4%** attendance
3. In third place was **Y4** with **97.9 %** attendance

This week Bobby will visit the girls and boys of Year 6; Bertie will visit the children of Year 3 and Elvis will have fun learning with children of Year 4. Congratulations to you all! For the week ending 30th November the average attendance was **95.8%** which, unfortunately, is below our target of 96%.

Nativity Play

I would like to remind you the nativity play takes place on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday 11th December 2012 at 2.15pm (*Tea & Coffee will be available after this performance*)
- Wednesday 12th December 2012 at 6.30pm

I am delighted to say that we will be joined at the productions by Mrs Jeffery, Mrs Downes and Mrs Humphries.

Bugsy Malone

Last Tuesday the children of Year 4 travelled to All Saints Catholic High School to see their production of Bugsy Malone. Everyone had a fantastic time and the children were 'buzzing' about it when they arrived back. They were impressed by the whole production: the music, the singing, the acting, the dancing, the set and all the effort that had clearly gone into it. They used words like 'awesome', 'amazing' and 'spectacular' when describing the experience to me. The children's reaction was so positive that I wrote to Mr Sawyer, Headteacher of All Saints in order to thank him and to convey our appreciation to his colleagues and students. I would like to thank my colleagues who accompanied our children for ensuring that they were safe during the visit and the children themselves who were polite, had fun and were an absolute credit to our school.

Kelham Island

Last week the children of Year 5 visit the Kelham Island living museum for a special day of activities exploring life in a Victorian workhouse at Christmas time. On the day the children looked fantastic dressed in their costumes, and really entered into the spirit as they learned about what life was like for boys and girls, just like them in many ways, all those years ago. Their behaviour was exemplary. I would like to thank Miss Kipling for organising the visit; Mr Smith for leading the visit on the day; all my colleagues and two parents (Mrs Croft and Mr Kilbride) for helping to support the children.

Christmas Cards

This is the first year we have run the Christmas Card Project with Art Projects for Schools (APFS) and I am delighted to tell you that we managed to raise £265 for school funds. Thank you to everyone who has purchased the cards, I do hope that you are pleased with them and that all those you send them to will enjoy the personal touch. We welcome feedback so let us know what you think. I would like to thank both Mrs Cope and Mrs Cooper who coordinated this project in school.

Achievements Outside School

- Olivia Worrall in Year 5 has recently been awarded the Pre-Primary Certificate in Ballet and a Bronze Certificate in Cheerleading – both 'Highly Commended'. Excellent Olivia, well done!
- Thomas Wood in Year 4 has gained his Level 2 Swimming Certificate at Westfield Leisure Centre. Well Done Thomas!

Food Hamper Raffle

The winning tickets of the raffle for the luxury food hampers were drawn today by Jake Lazenby. The winning tickets belong to: Mr Jack Cooper & Poppy Walton's family. Mrs Battams has contacted the lucky winners. I would like to thank all the staff who donated money to purchase the food for the hampers as well as Mrs Birch and Mrs Battams for organising the raffle. Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets, this year we managed to raise £153 for school funds.

Fingers crossed for decent weather this weekend!

F Barratt
Headteacher