

SJF NEWS

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Friday 1st December 2017 (Issue 12 ~ 2017/18)



Citizen of the Week

This week's recipient is **Ola Dominiak** in **Y6** who understands the importance of thinking carefully about choices to do with her health. Ola is a very responsible and trustworthy member of our community who thinks carefully about everything and everyone. In her own quiet, and understated way, Ola demonstrates the values that we hold so dear as a community, and we are all very proud of her for it! Thank you Ola!

Term 2 Smiley Scores

St Andrew's House  474	St David's House  383	St Patrick's House  383	St George's House  435
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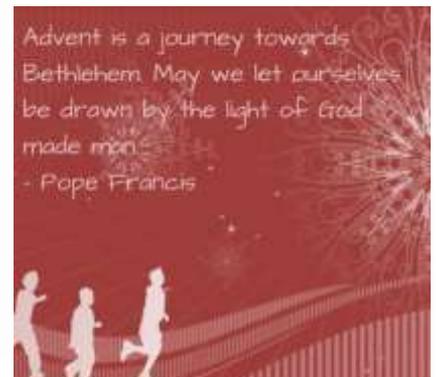
St Andrew's Feast Day & Blue Day

I would like to wish you all a Happy St Andrew's Day (30th November). The members of St Andrew's House will mark the feast with 'Blue Day' on Monday 4th December. Members of St Andrew's House do not have to wear uniform on Monday, instead they can wear something blue instead if they have it. There is no charge for this. Please note the children in the other Houses must wear uniform, unless it is their tree-planting day. Thank you.

Advent 2017

Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

Today the young people of Y4 led our annual 'Blessing of the Advent Wreaths' liturgy. It was a beautiful liturgy which explained the origins of Advent enabling us all to understand why it is such an important part of the Church's year. The children were wonderful; so well prepared. They each carried out their individual roles beautifully and I was extremely proud of them all. I am also very grateful to Mr Broadhead for all his hard work in preparing the liturgy and the children as well as Miss Pendlebury, Mrs Barrett and Mr Smith who led the music. Finally I would like to thank Fr Paul for joining us and for blessing the wreaths. It really was a joyous and thought-provoking liturgy and a fitting way to start Advent.



Class Advent Reflections

From Monday 4th December we will start our annual class Advent reflections in every class. These will take place in the classrooms every day except on PE days and Fridays. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on our own Advent journeys, and remember that Advent is a special time of leading up to Christmas!

We invite the family/friends of our young people to join us on the following days:

- ✓ **FS2** each **Tuesday** and **Thursday**
- ✓ **Years 1 & 2** each **Monday** and **Tuesday**
- ✓ **Years 3 & 4** each **Monday** and **Wednesday**
- ✓ **Years 5 & 6** each **Monday** and **Thursday**

Spaces are limited and should be booked on the day through the **School Office** (rather than speaking to the class teacher) if you wish to attend. If you are attending please arrive at **3.00pm** and wait in the foyer by the School Office. This is so you are in time for the prompt start at 3.10pm. Please note that regrettably we will not be able to admit anyone once the short reflections have started. Thank you for your understanding.

Advent Prayer

Throughout Advent we will focus on a prayer we called 'The Act of Contrition'. It is a very special prayer in which we ask God to forgive us for our sins and we ask for His support and strength so that we can move on in our lives and not sin again. The prayer is also shared during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The words are:

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you – and by the help of your grace I will not sin again. Amen



Parent Support and Advice Sessions

Sue Bernarde, our MAST Parent Support worker will be joining us for the final time on Thursday 7th December in the School Library from 8.30am.

If you would like to meet with Sue in order to discuss any issue affecting you and your family, please call school in order to book a slot, or just turn up on the day. Sue is very friendly and highly knowledgeable and will be able to advise you on a wide range of issues affecting you or your family.

I am pleased that these 'drop-in' sessions have proved popular and supported so many families. Miss Kiernan and I met with MAST to plan for after Christmas and will let you know what the arrangements are as soon as they are finalised. Thank you.

Advice and support
for children and
families



Contact MAST when
your family needs
some extra help

Achievements Outside of School

- **Owen Ford** in **Y1** achieved the 'Orange Stripe' award in karate and kickboxing! Congratulations Owen, a great achievement!
- **Charlie Morgan** in **Y1** visited the Sea Life Centre recently and earned a special medal in recognition of all the information he collected! What a star you are Freddie!
- **Bella Walton** in **Y1** achieved an overall 'A' grade in order to gain a 'Blue Tag' award in karate and kickboxing! Well done Bella, a fantastic achievement!

Monitoring of the Catholic Life of the School and Religious Education

In last week's newsletter I reported that we again had welcomed Mr Alan Dewhurst from the Diocese of Hallam so that he could carry out a monitoring visit to check that school was continuing to move forward following the award of 'Outstanding' judgments in our formal Section 48 inspection last December. His letter will be sent out with this newsletter.

Mrs Dewhurst observed that: *"...the high standards observed at the time of the inspection are obviously being maintained thanks to the prominence of RE in the curriculum and staff enthusiasm in delivering high quality teaching."*

At the end of the letter Mr Dewhurst concludes: *"As a result of the review it is recommended that the school be congratulated on their commitment and enthusiasm, and be affirmed in the knowledge of the excellent witness they are passing on to their pupils. The school is well placed to continue to develop as a Catholic learning community, and is recommended to keep its strong sense of creativity, enthusiasm, imagination an innovation in carrying out its Catholic mission as it goes forward."*

I would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of all my colleagues and especially Mrs Holloway who led RE until July 2017 and Mrs Barrett who has led RE since. I would also like to recognise the contribution of Governors, and especially Mrs Walton, the RE Link-Governor as well as Father Paul for their constant support.

Christmas Lunch 2017

This year the children will enjoy their Christmas lunch on **Thursday 21st December 2017**. Please do not forget to order your child(ren)'s meal(s) in time!

Reminder

Good attendance at school is very important, and we thank everyone for their support to ensure good levels of attendance and punctuality. We would like to remind you however, that children who are poorly with sickness and/or diarrhoea must be off for 48 hours after their last episode to prevent the spread of infection.

Attendance this Week			
FS2		99.0%	Bobby bear will visit next week
Year 1		97.0%	Elvis the owl will be visiting next week
Year 2		95.0%	
Year 3		95.7%	
Year 4		98.8%	Brenda bear will visit next week
Year 5		96.3%	
Year 6		96.6%	
Target		97.5%	This week's average attendance: 96.9%

Unfortunately attendance was affected greatly by the terrible sickness and diarrhoea bug that swept school this week.

Congratulations to the winning classes.

Curriculum Exhibition

You are invited to join us for our first exhibition of the year on the morning of the last day of Term 2. It will be in the School Hall from 9.00am. It is a great opportunity to come along and have a look at the children's work.



Calendar Reminders

04-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Assessment Point 2 – important that children are in school all week for assessments✓ 'Blue Day' a non-uniform for St Andrew's House members (can wear something blue)✓ tree-planting for FS2 and Years 3 & 4 (wear old clothes to school and bring wellies in a bag)✓ Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 who are not in St Andrew's House <u>must</u> wear full school uniform
05-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ tree-planting for Years 1, 2, 5 & 6 (wear old clothes to school and bring wellies in a bag)✓ FS2 and Years 3 & 4 <u>must</u> wear full school uniform
07-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ no liturgy as it is assessment week
08-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Celebration Assembly – family and friends of Y4 pupils are invited
11-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 'Jack and the Beanstalk' visiting pantomime in School Hall – funded by our fantastic PTFA
12-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Y6 children going to watch 'We Will Rock You!' at All Saints Catholic High School
13-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ FS2 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
15-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ PTFA 'Santa in School Day' (Santa arrives at 8.50am so please be late!)✓ children can dress down and wear Christmas jumpers if they have them
19-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
20-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ KS1 Nativity Play – School Hall at 2.15pm (please bring money for the raffle)
21-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Christmas dinner day
22-12-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ curriculum exhibition – School Hall from 9am-10am✓ KS2 Community Carol Service – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 2.00pm✓ PTFA refreshments and raffle in the School Hall afterwards✓ no Celebration Assembly✓ end of Term 2
08-01-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ school reopens – start of Term 3

Collective Worship

Weekly Liturgy of the Word

We will resume our liturgies in the New Year as it is assessment week next week and we are focusing on all the nativity plays, concerts and Advent class liturgies throughout December.

Celebration Assembly

Next week we invite the family and friends of our Y4 pupils to join us on **Friday 8th December 2017** for our next Celebration Assembly in the School Hall from 2.55pm. Thank you.

Important Reminders

Footwear

Children are required to wear proper black school shoes in school every day. Trainers (including all black trainers) and boots are not permitted. Children can wear them to and from school and at playtime but must have school shoes with them to wear for lessons.

PE Uniform

Children are required to wear a PE uniform on the all-day of their PE lesson. This is made up of a light blue round-neck T-shirt, burgundy shorts, a plain burgundy 'hoodie' or sweatshirt and plain light grey jogging bottoms. These items can be purchased from our official uniform suppliers, 'School Trends'. Information is available via these links:

- ✓ <http://www.st-johnfisher.org/cmsfiles/items/downloads/SCHOOL-UNIFORM-LIST-2017.pdf>
- ✓ <https://www.schooltrendsonline.com/uniform/StJohnFisherCatholicPrimarySchoolS124HJ>

Our uniform is a key part of our community's identity. It also underlines our commitment to high standards. Please support us by ensuring that your children come to school wearing the correct uniform on PE and non PE days. Thank you for your support.

Tickets for Nativity Plays

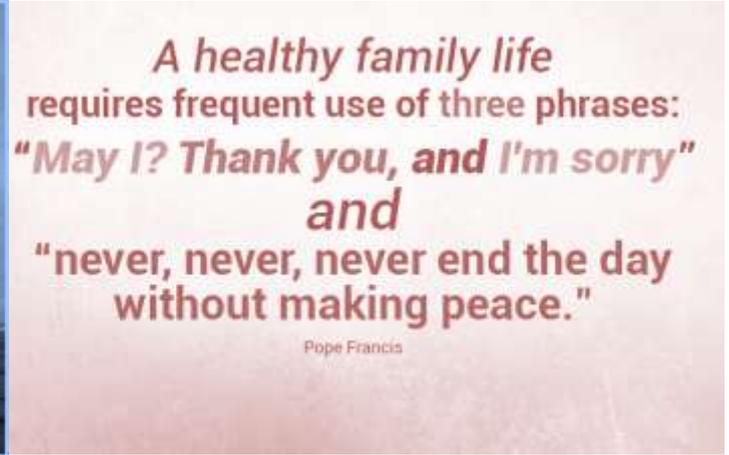
Please don't forget to get your tickets from the School Office for the various performances beforehand.



Statement to Live By

Next week our 'statement to live by' is **'I can work, rest and pray every day'**

Time to talk: Together you could think about all the things you do in a typical day from the moment you wake up in the morning to the moment you go to bed. Make a list and see how long it is. Using different coloured pens highlight/underline (i) in the first colour, anything to do with work or school; (ii) in the second colour, anything to do with relaxing and rest; and (iii) in the third colour, the moments when you pray. What do you notice? Is your typical day balanced? Can you find space for more moments to listen to God?



Best wishes,
Mr Barratt