



St Walburga's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Friday, 20th December 2024

Number 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of term, well done! It has been a super busy week in school.

On Monday evening, the Year 4 children led an Advent service of readings, reflection and singing. They read and sang beautifully, it was a wonderful way for our families to join together in prayer.

On Wednesday, the children had a super party day. Each year group went into the hall for Christmas lunch – crackers and party hats for all! In the evening, the KS2 children came back to school for a disco, which they really enjoyed (especially the tuck shop). That, plus the games and activities the teachers and TAs had planned – and a visit from Santa to every class - ensured the children had a great day. Many thanks to all the staff for their hard work in making this so much fun for the children!

On Thursday, we joined together for our traditional Nativity Assembly where we share a simple retelling of the Christmas story, with prayers and reflections, and songs from the children's performances. In the afternoon, Year 5 and 6 were entertained in a talent show organised by the Music Ambassadors, Stanley, Esme and Imogen – well done to them and to all the performers.

This morning, we ended the term with our annual Christmas singalong, and then some Christmas bingo with classes playing together over Teams! The children looked great in their Christmas jumpers too – it was a lovely, festive way to end the term!

If your child has grown out of their Christmas jumper – please can you send them in to us after Christmas – and we will recycle them next year!

Christmas Fundraising

Many thanks for all your support with the Christmas fundraising we have undertaken. The Fun night, Christmas Raffle and Xmas jumpers were all great successes, and we, with all the expenses accounted for, raised £2245.94 – a superb amount which will replenish our PSA funds and really support the work we do in school.

This year, the children decided that they wanted to raise money for Julia's House, we had collections at the end of the Reception and Year 1 performances, the Year 2 Carols and the Year 4 Advent service – I am delighted to tell you that we have collected £377.92. This added to the £170 we already raised during the Mermaid Tail competition, means we have collected a total of £547.92 for Julia's House! We will keep the payment option open on WisePay for a few more days, if you would like to contribute to our collections for a fabulous cause.

Hot meals

FINAL REMINDER for hot school meals- the deadline to order through the new Forerunner platform is midnight on Monday 30th December. If you don't order by then, you will have to ensure your child brings a packed lunch in after the holidays. You will receive a confirmation email, so look out for that! The link to register your account and then order is -

<https://forerunnerparents.myschoolmealorders.com/register>

Medication

We have noticed quite a few children bringing medication in their own bags – this is a potential safety risk. Please ensure that if your child needs medication, you bring it to the school office and complete the correct form so that we can administer it. Thanks.

Year 1 Phonics evening

The Year 1 team would like to invite parents and carers to a phonics information evening at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 15th January. This is a really important session, with information about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child in their learning. You will also hear about the phonics test which is administered in the summer term. This evening is for adults only – please do not bring your child with you as there will be no one to supervise them. One adult per child please.

Admissions reminder – especially siblings!

Don't forget, if your child is due to start school in September 2025, the deadline for applications is 15th January 2025. You must have submitted your application online at BCP council by this date. <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-infant-or-first-school-place>. You must also ensure that we have received any paperwork that you wish to submit to us to enable us to put your child in the correct category – this may be a baptism certificate, SIF form or proof of address (or all three!) – we must receive this by the 15th January too, as late applications have to be considered in a different round.

Start of term

We are looking forward to seeing all of the children back in school on **Monday, 6th January at 8.40am**. You will remember that we have very strict attendance guidance to follow, and any unauthorised absence may incur a fixed penalty from the Local Authority. This applies not only to consecutive days, but to absences over a period of weeks. Please ensure that you are following our policy and guidelines, and that your child is in school every day that they should be and can be. Learning time in school is invaluable – and we all want to give our children the very best life chances that we can. Our attendance policy is on our school website along with information regarding penalty notices.

As a remind ask the school office if you would like a hardcopy. If you would like a paper copy of anything on this website, please contact the school office.

Dates for your diary

Mon 6 th Jan 2025	8.40am	Term starts
Wb 13 th Jan		Afterschool clubs start again
Wed 15 th Jan	6.00pm	Year 1 Phonics information evening – more info to follow
Mon 13 th Jan	Pm	Year 5 swimming starts
Fri 14 th Feb	2.50pm	Break up for half term
Mon 24 th Feb	8.50am	School starts after half term break

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of myself and all the staff, for your cards, gifts, and good wishes this Christmas – you are very generous and your kind words are very much appreciated. I would also like to thank all the staff at the school for their hard work this term.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

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