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Autumn Newsletter 2023



We were delighted to be graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following our recent inspection. The report recognised the hard work and dedication of our staff, children and members of the school community. The inspectors were very complimentary about the positive nature and culture of support that exists throughout the school. Thank you to our

parents for their overwhelmingly positive comments.

Key quotes from the report:

'Pupils feel fortunate and blessed to be served by this exceptional school.'

'The early years curriculum gives children an excellent start to their education. It is extremely well designed. In key stage 1, the school has also designed a highly ambitious, exciting curriculum that is rich in opportunities for pupils to put their learning into practice.'

'The school knows that parents are its valued partners. Parents feel fully included in the life of the school and their children's learning.'

'Staff and governors are passionate and dedicated to the children, pupils and families in this community.'

SPRING TERM DATES

4th Jan—school opens

9th Feb—school closes for half term

19th Feb—school opens

28th March—school closes for Easter

[Other dates for Spring Term](#) (click for link)



OFSTED CELEBRATION



'God of love, help us to be your messengers on earth, showing your love for all people in everything that we do. Amen.' CAFOD

NATIVITY

Our children celebrated the very first Christmas by telling the story of Jesus' Christmas Party. The children sang beautifully and danced brilliantly. Thank you to our wonderful audiences for creating such a warm and supportive atmosphere.



PARISH CAROL SERVICE

Some of our Year 2 children recently took part in the St. Wilfred's Parish Carol Service at St. Michael's Church. Our children joined with children from other Catholic schools in a special service of 'Music and Light'. The children sang 'Shine Away' and 'Away in a Manger'. Their singing was beautiful and much enjoyed by all members of the congregation.





OUR CATHOLIC LIFE

- ◇ It was lovely that Father Bill was able to come into school to talk to the children in Year 2 about the meaning of the different parts of the Advent wreath. He included explanations about the circle of evergreen leaves and each of the Advent candles – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.
- ◇ We are looking forward to sharing time with Father Bill in church after Christmas to visit the crib and remember the Epiphany, when the wise men arrived at the stable to bring gifts to the baby Jesus.
- ◇ St Wilfrid's Parish Newsletter—click [here](#)
- ◇ Mass times—click [here](#)
- ◇ School Website - Catholic Life
- ◇ There is a 'useful links' document on the website where you can access links to Pope Francis' encyclicals Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti. The links will take you to the animations for the children. You can also access the full version of the new RE Directory – To know You more clearly.
- ◇ There is also a link to the Wednesday Word. The Wednesday Word provides scripture and prayer, along with games for the children, linked to the weekly Gospel.

<https://www.wednesdayword.org/>

KEY DATES:

- ◇ 24th December – fourth Sunday of Advent
- ◇ 25th December – Nativity of the Lord
- ◇ 31st December – Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- ◇ 6th January – The Epiphany
- ◇ 8th January – Baptism of the Lord
- ◇ 14th February- Ash Wednesday
- ◇ 19th March – St Joseph's Day
- ◇ 24th March – Palm Sunday
- ◇ 29th March – Good Friday
- ◇ 31st March – Easter Sunday

*Christ, come into our world of darkness. Light up our lives with your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth.
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world.
And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.
Sr Bridgetta Rooney/
CAFOD*



SPRING TERM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP DATES

(ALL 9AM START)

8th Jan—Coral Class
16th Jan—Scarlet Class
24th Jan—Red Class
29th Jan—Purple Class
5th Feb—Yellow Class
21st Feb—Orange Class
27th Feb—Green Class
5th March—Aqua Class
12th March—Blue Class

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The children in Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed a variety of extra-curricular clubs this term, including, Computing, Science, Dance, Choir, Health and Well-Being and Geography.

We ask that you discuss any club choices carefully with your child to ensure that they are committed to attending, should they receive a place.

Our annual Artsweek took place in October. The children took part in a variety of Arts activities, including painting, sketching, watercolours and printing. We were also delighted to be joined by the talented musicians from AmaSing who led the children in drumming workshops. As usual, the children impressed us all with their talents and creativity.



EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Fundraising

- ◇ We would like to say a huge 'THANK YOU' for your generosity in supporting our Christmas fundraising campaign. You have raised a whopping **£1736.27!** Our children loved receiving their prizes from Mrs Towell and Mr Cooper last week. **THANK YOU!**



Other fundraising: Diabetes Awareness £119.50, Odd Socks Day £8, Artsweek £58.10 Thank you

Christmas Sporty Fun!

- ◇ All the children loved taking part in our Christmas-themed PE event last week. The children balanced, raced, weaved and jumped their way through a variety of PE activities with Mr Cooper. The children were delighted to each receive a Fr. Christmas medal to be proud of. Well done everyone!



EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

FATHER CHRISTMAS

We had a surprise visit from a very important person this week!



HO-HO-HO!

Sleeping Beauty—Our children enjoyed their visit to The Brindley to see the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. They cheered, boo'd (in the right places), laughed and danced their way through this very enjoyable show.



ROTARY SHOEBOXES

Our school staff donated items in support of the Rotary Club shoebox appeal. The boxes are sent to families in need across the world. The School Council children helped to load them up! Thank you to the school staff.



Remembrance

The children gathered together for a service of remembrance in November. Each child brought a poppy and placed it on the ground, leaving fields of poppies in remembrance.



Rotary Club shoe box donations 2023



SCHOOL SPIDER

We encourage our parents and carers to download the School Spider parent app. You will receive information and updates via app messages and email.

As well as receiving information, you can also report your child's absence, view galleries and respond to surveys.

Apple version [here](#)

Android version [here](#)

[Email](#) Miss Parle with any queries.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have safeguarding concerns about any child you can contact Halton's integrated Contact and Referral Team by clicking [here](#). If you need to contact school and speak to Miss Scragg regarding any advice around safeguarding please email safeguarding@stbedesinfants.co.uk

School Funds Information
Bank Balance £4318.70
Cash Balance £1870.66

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

A letter will be sent at the beginning of each half term, detailing your child's percentage attendance. We understand that there can be extenuating circumstances as to why a child's attendance may be low. Attendance is also reported at the end of the school year, in your child's report. Please click [here](#) to view our Attendance Policy. If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school, please read the NHS link [here](#).

If your child is ill please contact the school office on the first day of absence. Absences can also be reported using the School Spider parent app. Medical evidence may be required if your child's absence falls below 90%. Attendance up to Friday 15th December 2023 is 95.49%.

As you will see from the policy ([here](#)) all requests for leave of absence in term time should be made using schools' 'Leave of absence in term time' request form and evidence of the exceptional circumstances must be provided for all requests and attached to the form.

Where a pupil is absent from school without the permission of the school, the parent/carer of the pupil may be issued with a £60 penalty notice per parent per child. If the notice remains unpaid after 21 days the penalty increases to £120. If the notice remains unpaid after 28 days the Local Authority may commence proceedings under section 444 (1) of the 1996 Education Act in the Magistrates Court.

We also appreciate that there are rare occasions when you might arrive late to collect your child and of course we understand that this sometimes happens! However, if late collection is frequent then this has a huge impact on our very busy teachers and support staff; 5 minutes late per day adds up to nearly half an hour per week. We thank you for your cooperation.

