



St. Austin's Catholic Primary School

A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Weekly Newsletter: Friday 1st December 2017

No: 12



Spiritual Reflection—Advent



On Sunday we mark the beginning of a new Church Year with the first Sunday of Advent. Over the next twelve months the Gospel of St. Mark will be read at mass.

For many of us, Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, a time to think about and look forward to the great celebration of Jesus' birth. Sunday's Gospel has a clear message of being prepared. We are asked to 'stay awake' and be ready to welcome Jesus.

As well as our spiritual preparations we can become overwhelmed by the other preparations that are required of us at this busy time of year—shopping, buying presents, sending cards, planning meals and the list goes on and on—the Christmas countdown has long since begun!

Similar to previous years, each class will be doing a variety of things as part of their Advent preparations. Advent wreaths have been made for all classrooms and will be blessed in a simple liturgy on Monday morning. At 3.10pm every afternoon throughout the season of Advent all classes will spend time in reflection and prayerful silence. Our school halls will also be available for quiet prayer time for any parents wishing to make use of this valuable time from 3.10pm every day. Children who have already received the sacrament of reconciliation will be invited to go to Confession next Wednesday morning—a great opportunity for both reparation and preparation.

Christmas Productions

UFS	Years 1 and 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
Monday 11th December at 2.00pm	Tuesday 12th December at 9.30am	Wednesday 13th December at 6.00pm	Thursday 14th December at 6.00pm
Tuesday 12th December at 2.00pm	Wednesday 13th December at 2.00pm	Thursday 14th December at 2.00pm	Friday 15th December at 2.00pm

Week beginning Monday 4th December

Monday 4th December

11.00am Blessing of the Advent Wreaths Liturgy
3.30pm After School Club—Netball

Tuesday 5th December

NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am Y4 Advent Mass (all Y4 children will attend)
3.30pm After School Club—Football Club
5.00pm **KS2 SATs Information Meeting for Y6 Parents**

Thursday 7th December

9.30am Bread Making demonstration to Y6 pupils
10am School Library Service working with Y1 and Y2
3.30pm After School Club—Choir

Friday 8th December

8.50am UFS Stay and Play until 9.30am
10.30am Choir Carol Singing at The Sycamores
3.45pm FOSAS Christmas Fair

Our School Christmas Fair



Friday 8th December

From 3.45-5:30pm

FOSAS are holding the St. Austin's Christmas Fair at the end of the school day on Friday 8th December.

They are working very hard to plan and organise a great event with the usual seasonal attractions.

Our school choir will be singing at regular intervals.

Father Christmas will make a special visit!

Raffle tickets will be on sale—Prizes include:

A hamper,
a large teddy bear,
Prosecco and Chocolates

Pantomime—Aladdin

Everyone was treated to a super performance of 'Aladdin' yesterday morning. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Our thanks to M&M Productions for sharing their creative talents with us. We look forward to 'Peter Pan' next year!

Communication with School

We encourage and value open communication between home and school. **Please remember to speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance regarding all issues.** Should you wish to take a matter further please arrange to speak to the relevant Phase Leader (UFS—Mrs Kendrew, KS1—Mrs. Velayudhan, KS2—Mrs. Chernenko). If after speaking to the phase leader you feel that the matter or issue has not been resolved please arrange to speak to our Deputy Headteacher (Mr. Molyneux). After following this route you still have concerns please contact Mr. Flood. In most cases any problems, issues or concerns can be effectively dealt with by the class teacher—they know your child best.

Diary Dates

Monday 4 th December	Blessing of the Advent Wreaths
Wednesday 6 th December	Advent Class Mass – Year 4 all pupils – 9.30am (followed by Confessions for Yrs 4 – 6)
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fair at St. Austin's School – 3.45pm—5.45pm
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Concert 'The Great Light' for Grandparents and Parishioners – 10am Blessing of Advent Crib – UFS & KS1 – 2.30pm
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Dinner Day followed by Party Afternoon—all Year Groups
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole School Mass – 9.30am in KS2 Hall Christingle Service led by children from Years 3 and 4—2.45pm in the KS2 Hall
Thursday 21 st December	'Christmas Peace Message' - Liturgy led by children from Years 5 and 6—2.45pm KS2 Hall
Friday 22 nd December	School Closes for Christmas Holiday



Hot Chocolate Friday

The following children have been rewarded with 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' for their super behaviour and excellent attitude towards all aspects of school.

Class RW - Sinead Walsh
Class RK –Gabriel Batch-McGinty
Class 1T-Haris Ahmed
Class 1/2C-Gracie Ann Taylor
Class 2V –Hassaan Ali
Class 3W –Joseph Kuttikatt
Class 3/4JT –Sophie Baxter
Class 4N –Laura Hulewicz
Class 5B-Desireeh Mullet
Class 5/6C-Aiyma Abassi
Class 6CD-Kieran Johnson



KS1 Start and end of day procedures

Please may we continue to ask that when children in Years 1 and 2 are brought into school on a morning and the bell sounds to line up that they are left to walk to class **without** the adult who brought them. We are wanting to encourage greater independence in our pupils and this would help greatly. Messages can be passed on to the class teachers via the school office.

Equally, at the end of the day when children are preparing to leave the classroom can those collecting children ensure that they wait away from the classroom door so that teachers are able to see which parents are ready to receive their children and that access for the children beyond the classroom is clearer and safer.

E-Safety Advice:

Visit net-aware.org.uk to find out more about suitable apps and websites.

Groupcall Xpressions

Please can we remind you to download the app from the app store on your smartphone! Xpressions is a very easy to navigate information source to keep you up to date with any school events, messages, etc. If you have any technical issues installing the app contact the school office for support.

Attendance

Congratulations to 1/2C who are this week's KS1 attendance winners with 97% and also to 5/6C in KS2 with an attendance of 99%.

Just a reminder that the school doors open at 08:50 and the day begins at 08:55. If you can ensure your child arrives on time. Thank you.



Parenting Course—'Helping Families to Help Themselves

Beginning in January 2018 our Parenting Course will begin. The facilitators of this course will be: Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Nadeem, Mrs. Samardzija and Mrs. Workman. Further details will be sent out at the beginning of the Spring Term.

We also draw your attention to on online course helping families to understand low mood and depression in young people. The course is aimed at parents, teachers, school staff and other professionals working with young people with depression.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/depression-young-people?lr=38>

Parish Mass times this weekend are:

St Austin's:

Saturday at 6.15pm, Sunday at 8.15am, 11am and 6pm

SS Peter & Paul's

Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 9am and 10.45am

For further information please see the newsletters on the parish websites:

www.peterpaul.org.uk and smartinswakefield.org/index.



Mr K Flood
Headteacher

Mr J Molyneux
Deputy Headteacher