



Newsletter



3/12/18

Advent

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! The season of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year in the Catholic Church. Advent is the season in the Church's year when we prepare ourselves for the great event of celebrating Jesus' birth. Advent began on Sunday 2nd when our class Advent Wreaths were blessed at Mass. The children will be learning about Advent in their RE lessons. You should have had a letter last week about our 'Reverse Advent Calendar' where we are hoping each class will be able to donate 24 items of food or toiletries to people and families in need.

Nativity Plays & Carol Service

Learning about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, and the events there, form part of our Advent preparations. The most special part of Advent for many people is seeing young children re-enact those events in their Nativity Plays and Carol Services. There will be two performances of each of our Nativity Plays and one Carol Service the week after next. The Carol Service (Thursday 20th December at 6pm) will be open to all but unfortunately we are limited to a capacity of 130 seats for the Nativity Play performances. We will allow families to request as many tickets as they would like, but please bear in mind that if we have more requests for a performance than we have space in the hall we will have to limit the number of tickets given to the family of any one child. The morning performances are not usually as full as the evening ones so, if you have a large number of people who would like to see the show, opting for a morning performance will give you a better chance of actually getting a ticket. The ticket request form can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. The forms will need to be returned by 9.00 on Monday 10th December. Tickets will then be given out and **will need** to be shown at the door to get in to see a show.

It is expected that all children attend, and participate, in the performances they have been preparing for. If there is a very good reason why your child will not be able to attend please let the class teacher know as soon as possible.

International Christmas Fair

Another celebration of our Advent learning is the International Christmas Fair which takes place this year on the 13th December. Each class takes time to research Advent and Christmas traditions in another country and the children prepare gifts and foods to reflect that learning. Parents are invited in to purchase gifts and enjoy the foods. Parents will be welcome to join their children in the hall from **2.45pm** onwards on that day. If you wish to take your child home early on that day you may do so as long as you have informed the teacher when you are going.

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch will be served on Thursday 20th December. A letter will be going out this week asking you to book a Christmas dinner in advance. It is usual that almost all children have a cooked roast dinner on that day so we need to know numbers in advance to be able to order enough food. Payment will need to be made online as normal. Children will be able to wear their own clothes to school that day, however school uniform will need to be worn by Key Stage 2 children at the Carol Service that evening. Usually the Christmas lunch day ends with a Talent Show but, as the school has nearly twice as many children as it had when the tradition started, it has become more difficult to find the time to allow all of the children who want to perform the chance to do so. This year we will have the added complication of the Key Stage 2 Carol Service being on the same evening. For those reasons we will move the Talent Show to Friday 21st, which is the last day of term. I have given in to a request for the Talent Show day to also be a 'mufti' (non-uniform) day so children can wear their own clothes on both of the last two days.



ST JOSEPH'S NATIVITY PLAY TICKET APPLICATION



Child's name Class

Please indicate how many tickets you would like to apply for for each performance.
Applications need to be returned by 9.00am on 7/12/17

Foundation Stage

Tuesday 18th 6.00 pm show

Wednesday 19th 9.10am show

Key Stage 1 (Classes 1 & 2)

Tuesday 18th 9.10am show

Wednesday 19th 6.00pm show