



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Earlsbury Gardens, Birchfield, Birmingham B20 3AE

Tel: 0121 356 4721 email: enquiry@sacredheart.bham.sch.uk

Executive Principal: Mr. G M O'Hara

28th November 2019

Dear Parents,

Catholic Life at Sacred Heart Catholic School

There have been so many wonderful events and achievements at Sacred Heart this half term. Our half termly Catholic Life newsletter is one of our ways of sharing the mission of our school with you and keeping families informed of how you can become more involved in the Catholic Life of our school.

Launch of the 'Year of the Word'- 'The God who Speaks'

This Advent sees the beginning of an important year in the Catholic Church of England and Wales: A Year of the Word. As the Church's focus turns to Year A, St. Matthew's Gospel, we are asked to consider the many ways in which God speaks to us: through the Bible, through Prayer and through other people. In partnership with the Bible Society, 'The God Who Speaks: The Year of the Word' focuses on celebrating, living and sharing God's word. The aim is to give children a greater understanding of Scripture,

'Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.'

Parental attendance at weekly Mass

The number of family members joining us for mass each Thursday is growing. It is a joy to see how happy it makes the children when their parents or carers come to this special celebration. This wonderful partnership between school and home is vital to the growing faith of our children. All are welcome to come and join us each Thursday at 9.10.am.

Commitment Mass at Sacred Heart Church

Last Sunday at Sacred Heart Church, so many families and staff came to join in the special Mass of Commitment for our school and for the children beginning their preparation for the Sacrament of The Eucharist. We were immensely proud of all of the children who volunteered to sing in the choir, read prayers and worship with us as a school family. Thank you so much- your support for the parish and school is greatly appreciated.

Red Wednesday

This week, Father Stephen asked all the children to wear red to raise awareness of the suffering of so many Christians and others which goes largely unnoticed by the world. Teaching and encouraging our children to have such a firm belief in the rights of all people is paramount in making them followers of Christ.

School website- *Our Faith*

As requested by parents and Governors, our school website is being updated and new information is now uploaded regularly. Please look at the *Our Faith* section at the wonderful photographs and details of how the Catholic Life of our school is being embraced and celebrated by staff and children.



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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Motivational November to Determined December

During the month of November, Miss Joseph and the Reading Champions have been successfully promoting their reading project; encouraging children to read as many books as possible. To support 'The Year of the Word', the Faith Ambassadors and Reading Champions will be coming together to encourage all children to read and understand The Scriptures. As 'Scripture Champions', they will be helping to spread the Word of God to all in our school. More details will follow next week about this exciting initiative.

Fundraising

Children and staff have been very busy thinking of others this term and have raised incredible amounts of money for two charities that are very close to the heart of the school:

- The Oscar charity that helps people with sickle cell anaemia and Thalassaemia
- Edward's Trust who support children who have suffered bereavement have both benefited from your generosity.

Thank you Miss Weston and the School Council for organising the duck races and cake sales.

Advent Prayer Bags

As part of the 'The Year of the Word', each child will be bringing home an Advent Prayer bag to share with their families during the season of Advent. Please take time to spend some time in prayer with your children, write some prayers and reflections to share in class and think about how they will prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The Wednesday Word is a wonderful way to begin this dialogue and discussion at home.

Links with Our Parish

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Children's Liturgy

We are so grateful that Mrs Bjanku (Christel and Injacio's mum) and Miss Tadesse (Abigail and Aaron's mum) have volunteered to support the Children's Liturgy at the Sacred Heart parish mass each Sunday at 10.00am. This is a wonderful way for the children to listen and respond to the word of God in a fun and engaging way. Please go along and celebrate with them at church each week.

Parish newsletters

From next week, all family members will be able to access the Sacred Heart parish newsletter from our school website. Please take the opportunity to find out about all of the wonderful events taking place at church. There will also be some paper copies for parents by the school office.

Our Lady of the Caribbean Chaplaincy

As a school, we are blessed with the beautiful chapel within Our Lady of the Caribbean Chaplaincy. To enhance our Collective Worship in school, each year group now has the opportunity to worship in the chapel on a rota basis and enjoy the peaceful space within the chapel. Please ask your child about the special class worship that they have experienced in this special sacred space.

Gifts from God

Well done to all those children who brought in their trophies, medals and certificates this half term: you have truly shown us all how you have used your God given gifts. Keep them coming!



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Forth-coming events

Christingle Services

Next week, all children will be making a Christingle to bring home as a reflective way to begin Advent this year. Through song, readings and explanation the children will understand the symbolism of the orange, the red ribbon, the sweets and the candle as part of Jesus' special story.

Bambinelli Sunday

The third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) is Bambinelli Sunday and this is when all the children bring their Bambinelli's (Baby Jesus figures) from their Nativity scenes to St. Peter's square to be blessed by the Pope. Pope Francis said of Bambinelli Sunday,

'When you gather in your homes in prayer before the manger, looking at the Child Jesus, you will feel amazement at the great mystery of God made man; and the Holy Spirit will give your heart the humility, tenderness and goodness of Jesus. This is the true Christmas! May this be so for you and for your families.'

All of the children in school will be making a baby Jesus that will be blessed by Father Stephen and then taken home for Christmas.

KS1 Nativity- The Christmas Story

Our amazing KS1 children will be telling us all the real story of Jesus' birth at Christmas in the last week of term. Parents and family members are welcome to join us to see this wonderful nativity:

Tuesday 17th December 2.00pm

Wednesday 18th December 9.30am

To continue to share the message of Jesus' birth at Christmas, our local schools, Canterbury Cross and Birchfield Community School, have been invited to bring some of their children to come and see the children perform. We are sure the children will thoroughly enjoy celebrating this story with our wonderful stars of KS1.

KS2 Carol Service

On Friday 20th December at 2.00, KS2 will be leading us in prayer and song during our Christmas Carol Service. This will be a wonderful way to end the term and prepare the children fully to understand the coming of Jesus at Christmas. All families are welcome to come and join with us and share a warm drink and mince pies with afterwards!



Congratulations

The winning house this week was: St Mark

Please encourage your children to wear their Saint badge with pride.

Commendations

Well done to the following children: Selihome Mebrahtom, Archie Phillips, Alessia-Roberta Dura, Prince Nzolani, Clarissa Oledibe, Elijah Haylette and Chidubem Afoka

Presentation award: Bietab Yohannes, Zayaan Mohammad, Nabeeha Siddiqui, Skylar Donegal, Lola Smith-Bennett, Frank Aigangbee and Ashaea Robinson.

Gospel Virtues

This half term the children will be thinking how they are **attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

This week the following children have displayed their wonderful virtues: Patrick Lupu, Tomass Lusic, Zinhle Mlaga, Ezekiel Haylette, Eliam Asfaha, Troy McLean and Oskar Kinach

INSET Day reminder

Please remember that school will be closed for staff training on **Friday 29th November.(Tomorrow)**

“Lord, open my heart, mind and ears to receive your Word.”



Jesus said to his disciples: “Stay alert! Nobody knows when I will come back so you must always be ready. You can be sure that if the owners of a house knew at what time of thief was coming, they would stay awake and wouldn’t let the thief break in. So you must always be ready, because you do not know when I shall return.”

Wednesday's Word is Advent

“Christ asks us to be wide awake and alert, to see things that really matter.”

Pope Francis

Yours sincerely

Mr G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs G Elliott
Acting Head of School

Mrs D Cooper
Acting Vice Principal