



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Earlsbury Gardens, Birchfield, Birmingham B20 3AE

Tel: 0121 356 4721 email: enquiry@sacredheart-sch.net

Executive Principal: Mr. G M O'Hara

17th December 2020

Dear Parents,

After a difficult term, all the children in school have enjoyed a wonderful week of Christmas activities. They have also had time in their classes to reflect on the true meaning of preparing for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel announced God's will, and Mary accepted it and put her trust in God.

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

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man called Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. “Rejoice, favoured one!” said Gabriel. “The Lord is with you.” Mary was disturbed and asked herself what he could mean. “Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel continued. “You have found favour with God. Listen! You will conceive and bear a son and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High and his kingdom will never end.”



“How can this be,” questioned Mary, “since I am a virgin?” “The Holy Spirit will come down upon you,” the angel said, “and you will have a child who will be called the Son of God.”

“I am the servant of the Lord,” Mary replied. “Let it happen just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.



“Mary is the one who says “Yes”. Mary's life shows that God accomplishes great deeds through those who are the most humble.”

Pope Francis

The Wednesday word is Mary

Huge Thank you

As a school, we know how difficult it can be at Christmas to find money to spend on presents and all the other nice things that children wish for at this time of year. We are so grateful that staff at St Joseph's Catholic School in Sutton Coldfield, St Mary and the Angels Catholic School in Aldridge and parishioners at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Sutton Coldfield who have donated a special gift for **every single child** to open on Christmas Day. A special thank you to Mrs Patricia Craddock, a parishioner at Holy Trinity who was baptised at Sacred Heart Church as a child, who donated money to help with the special treats.

As a school, we cannot find the words to express how overwhelmed we have been with these acts of generosity. On behalf of our children at school, thank you to everyone involved; you truly will have made this Christmas very special for the children at Sacred Heart.





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Catholic Life and Well-being at Sacred Heart

Christmas Raffle

We have been so pleased with how hard all the children in school have worked to earn raffle tickets during Advent. They truly have been living out our virtues, following the Gospel and preparing their hearts for Jesus. Their happy faces were a joy to see when they had their names picked out of the raffle jars on Wednesday! Thank you to all staff who donated prizes for the children.



Some of our Year 2 children with their raffle prizes.

Fundraising

The spirit of giving and generosity has been so strong this term. Families and children have donated so much to support others in need such as; St Chad's Sanctuary, Edward's Trust and SIFA. We were so pleased with the donations for the SJPII Academy foodbank last week. At Sacred Heart we truly put our Faith into action; even when things are hard.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Proverbs 19:17

Prayer Group

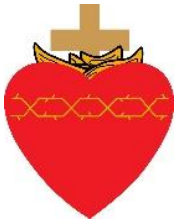
The children in Year 5 have been lucky enough to be able to start attending the voluntary prayer group organised by Mrs Craig and Miss Weston each week. They have really missed this time to be able to come together to pray, reflect and talk about their worries. Thank you to Mrs Craig and Miss Weston for giving their time to ensure the children have this important time in school.

Faith Ambassadors CAFOD work

Over recent months, children in school have raised an incredible £280 for CAFOD. This year, the Year 6 Faith Ambassadors decided that they would like to choose how this money was spent. After some careful thought and discussions with Mrs Badland, the children decided on the gifts which would be bought on behalf of the children at Sacred Heart. Their reasons for choosing certain gifts were incredible and they fully understood the positive impact that their choices would have on other children round the world.

- 2 Solar Lamps at £30 each
- 5 Keep Clean Kits at £6 each
- 2 School Starter pack at £25 each
- 2 Chirpy Chickens at £20 each
- 3 Veggie Gardens at £10 each
- 2 Water for a family at £33 each





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Parish Community

It has been so long since we have been able to celebrate mass in school with Father Stephen that the children suggested we visit some of our parishioners who attended mass regularly in school each week. It was lovely to see Mrs Crotty and Mr Gallagher after such a long time. Please keep them in your prayers over the Christmas season.

Sacred Heart FLAME (Family Liaison And Mental and Emotional support)

Since September, Mrs Craig has taken on the role of supporting families and children who need help with a huge variety of worries and concerns. It is a huge undertaking but she is working tirelessly to make sure our children have everything they need. We are sure that those of you who have received support from Mrs Craig will agree that she has made such a difference to the well-being of yourselves and your children. Thank you, Mrs Craig.

KS1 Nativity

This week, the children in Year 1 and Year 2 performed their wonderful Nativity Story and showed the true meaning of Christmas- the birth of the baby Jesus. They shone like superstars and helped us to fully prepare for the coming of Christ in these final weeks of Advent.



Spring term

Please remember that the Spring term starts on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**. School is closed to pupils on Monday 4th January for staff INSET.





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We hope you all have a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

Thank you for your support this term and we look forward to some more exciting times at Sacred Heart in the New Year.



God Bless

Yours sincerely

Mr G M O'Hara
Executive Principal

Mrs G Elliott
Acting Head of School

Mrs D Cooper
Acting Vice Principal

