

Sacred Heart Primary School



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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the December Newsletter. We have now entered the season of Advent, once again, a time of being busy, buying gifts and making preparations.

ADVENT - In our RE topics this Advent the children learn about the gift of God's love in Jesus and loving as a way of life. The children explore how we invite and welcome visitors and make preparations for them. They learn about Advent as a time of preparation for Jesus' coming at Christmas.

In school, we will be helping the children to prepare for this great celebration through our prayers, assemblies, concerts and Religious Education lessons. We have an Advent Wreath to remind us of the four Sundays during Advent and the Nativity scene is central to our preparations with the children.

At home, you could make or buy an Advent calendar with religious symbols to help your child prepare for Christmas. You could discuss with the children how your family prepares for and welcomes visitors to your home or find out about some Christian symbols for advent e.g. advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree. You can download a religious Advent calendar from www.missiontogether.org.uk or www.cafod.org.uk. Please take some time over Christmas to look at the Wednesday Word with your child.

YEAR OF THE WORD - Our bishops have dedicated 2020 as a Year of the Word of God focusing on living and sharing God's word throughout the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Cardinal Nichols launched <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/2020-year-of-the-word-the-god-who-speaks/> a website with resources to use throughout the year. One of these resources is attached.

SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES - A big thank you to the children and parents for the recent contributions to our various charity appeals including Recycle with Michael and the Food Bank. As always you have been very generous. For the Operation Christmas Child Appeal we collected a total of 35 beautifully wrapped shoe boxes brimming with exciting gifts. The boxes will soon be at their destination and I am sure the children will be delighted to receive their gifts. The Poppy Appeal raised £485, the Wear Yellow Day raise £375 for Youth Mental Health and the Cake Sale organized by our Eco Warrior raised £147 for Waste Aid

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE - Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the class Christmas hampers please send any remaining items in by Monday 16th December. Tickets are now on sale for £1 a ticket. Please send money in an envelope marked Christmas Raffle with your child's name and class. Each class will have a separate raffle for their class hamper which will be drawn on Thursday 19th December.

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020 - We have been asked to inform you of the following. If you have a child born between 1/09/15 - 31/08/16 you must apply for a school place even if:

- you have already made an earlier application direct to the school
- your preferred school is not in Luton
- your preferred school is a faith school, a foundation school, an academy or a free school
- your child is attending a pre-school or early years class attached to your preferred school

It is really important that you read 'How to apply for a school place for September 2020 guide' available online.

If you specify a Luton Catholic School on your application you must also download a copy of the Catholic School Supplementary Form, available on our school website and provide your child's original baptismal certificate. You must apply and provide all documents by 15 January 2020. For further information see www.luton.gov.uk/Education_and_learning/Schools_and_colleges/School%20admissions/transferring-to-a-new-school-or-academy/Pages/Starting-school-in-September.aspx

SCHOOL CLOSURE - At this time of year we are all conscious of the changing weather and drop in temperature. As you are aware, snow can cause mayhem making even a short journey dangerous, despite the snow ploughs and gritters!! May I take this opportunity to remind you that any school closures will appear on our school website and the Luton Council website also <http://www.luton.gov.uk/schoolclosures>. You should also receive a text message via pmxparentmail so please ensure your contact details are up to date.

EASY FUND RAISING - Thank you to all of you who are supporting the school by ordering on line through this website. The web address is www.easyfundraising.org.uk/foshps. If online purchases are made through this website the school receives a percentage at no extra cost to you. A number of retailers are registered with this site including Asda, Tesco, Amazon, Boots, Bodyshop and many more.

SCHOOL UNIFORM - Please ensure your children have warm coats, hats and gloves for the playground and that all your children's clothing is clearly marked with their names, especially their jumpers and coats. It is also very important that children do not bring any expensive or precious items into school. Thank you for your co-operation.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - Due to changes in government funding for schools and the introduction of the Pupil Premium it is important that all our eligible pupils are registered for free school meals. **If your child is registered for free school meals, and is entitled to Pupil Premium, we use the funding in a variety of ways for example:**

- **to provide extra support and interventions in English/ Maths**
- **to pay for an after school club**
- **reduced prices for school trips**

Please register if you are eligible even if your child is in FS or KS1 so already receives a free school meal.

In order to be eligible for Free School Meals the parent/legal guardian must receive at least one of the following benefits:

If you are in receipt of the following support payments, your child will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Universal Credit – from 1 April 2018 provided you have an annual **net** earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under part 6 of the [Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), that does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Please call **01582 510346** for advice on the working tax credit run on. To apply for free school meals and for further information go to www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or contact the Revenues and Benefits Department in the Town Hall 01582 510346, email Revenues.Admin@luton.gov.uk. Our Family Workers are happy to assist you with your application, please contact Mrs. Diggin or Mrs Overton.

PARKING - If you use Langford Drive please park with consideration and do not use the school entrance to turn your car as this puts our children's safety in danger. We have received a number of complaints regarding parent/carers and their driving/parking both in Langford Drive and the Church car park. Please be considerate of each other and ensure your driving/ parking does not pose a danger to others. In the next few weeks we have a number of Christmas performances and events, if you are attending these or collecting your child from the Christmas disco/entertainment please ensure you do not block any of the neighbours' drives or obstruct the flow of traffic. If at all possible please use the Church car park. Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation

CHRISTMAS CONCERT- This year we are having a Christmas Carol Concert in the Sacred Heart Church on Monday 16th December at 2pm. All children from **Year 3 to Year 6** will perform for parents we hope you will be able to join us. **Year 2, Year 1 and FS** will have their Christmas Performance in school please see below for dates.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES - These will be held on **Wednesday 18th December**. The **FS and KS1 Christmas Disco** is from **3.30 - 5.00 pm**, tickets cost £5 and are available from the KS2 office. The children will receive a snack and gift. Please enter the school site from the church car park and collect the children from KS1.

The KS2 Christmas Disco is also on Wednesday 18th December 6 pm. - 8.00 pm - tickets cost £3 and are available from the KS2 office. KS2 children will need to bring a small amount of money to buy drinks, sweets and raffle tickets.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - The Children's Annual Christmas Lunch has been arranged for Tuesday 17th December. All children and staff are encouraged to have a school meal on that day. If your child normally has a packed lunch and you wish them to have Christmas Lunch please put £2.15 (KS2) on your Scopay account to cover the cost of their meal. If you have lost your log in details and card, for this one occasion, you can pay £2.15 in cash. Please send money in a named envelope to the school office.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - We are having a non uniform day on Tuesday 17th December. The children can wear a Christmas Jumper or festive outfit for a donation of £1. Please do not feel you have to purchase a new outfit children can dress up an existing outfit with tinsel or a Christmas decoration.

CHRISTMAS DATES

The teachers and children are busily preparing for the concerts and we would ask you to support the children with their readings and the learning of words to hymns and carols at home. We look forward to seeing you at the performances.

9th December - Christmas Concert for Year 1 parents- 9.45am

9th December - ABC Workshop for Year 1 'Making Friends and Staying Friends.'

10th December - Christmas Concert for Year 2 parents- 9.45am

10th December- School Choir singing at Luton Airport selected pupils

11th December - Class Guided Meditation 6HS – 9am parents invited

13th December - Advent Liturgy for Parents 9am in the Learning Lodge

13th December - Christmas Concert for Foundation Stage parents- 9.15am

16th December - Carol Concert in Sacred Heart Church for Year 3 to Year 6 - 2pm - Parents invited

17th December - School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day.

18th December - 3.30 p.m - 5 p.m. Foundation Stage and KS1 Christmas Party

18th December - 6 - 8pm - KS2 Christmas Disco

YEAR 6 - The KS2 SATs start on Monday 11th May and take place every day ending Thursday 14th May. The tests have to be taken on the days stipulated by the examining board; if your child is absent they will not be able to take the tests at another time. It is important that parents do not take their children out of school for holidays either prior or during this week.

YEAR 1- The Phonic Screening checks starts on Monday 7th June

TERM DATES - We break up for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 19th December and the children return to school on Monday 6th January 2020. Thank you once again for your continued support during this busy time for us all. On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J.M.Cullen
Headteacher