

# 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 a time of preparation for Christmas. Unfortunately, this year we are also in a time of uncertainty but I hope that you all manage to celebrate with your loved ones and that you have a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

**STAFFING** - Sadly Mrs Maria Ryan, our SENCO and Year 3 teacher, is leaving Sacred Heart Primary at the end of the term. Mrs Ryan has taught at Sacred Heart Primary since January 1997 and was herself a pupil at Sacred Heart Primary. We wish Mrs Ryan every blessing for the future, thank you Mrs Ryan for all your hard work and the contribution you have made to the life of the school.

**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. to help us

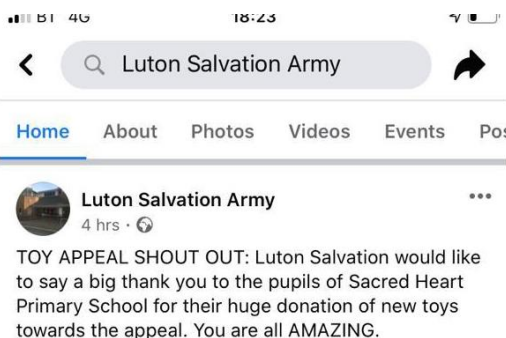
In school, we will be helping the children to prepare for this great celebration through our prayers, assemblies, concerts and Religious Education lessons. Mrs Hannigan has created an Advent Cross for the KS2 and we have an Advent Wreath to remind us of the four Sundays during Advent and the Nativity 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](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk) or [www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children). I have also attached an Advent Reflection that I hope you will find uplifting and enjoy reading.

**SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES** - A big thank you to the children and parents for the recent contributions to our various charity appeals including British Legion Appeal, the Salvation Army Toy Appeal and the Noah Appeal. The toys for the Salvation Army (pictured below) have been delivered and I am sure the children will be delighted to receive their gifts. The Poppy

Appeal raised £375.



**COVID** - Thank you for all your support in keeping our school community safe during the last few months Please take extra caution to follow the school controls particularly when dropping children off and collecting them to minimise the risk of pupils and staff having to self-isolate over the Christmas holiday.

**STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021** - We have been asked to inform you of the following. If you have a child born between 1/09/16 - 31/08/17 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 2021 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 2021. 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](http://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](http://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** - Please apply for Free School Meals, if your child is eligible, even if your child is presently receiving a free school meal because they are in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or Year 2. **If the school goes back into lockdown and the government decides to provide free school vouchers your child will only receive these vouchers if you have registered them for free school meals** on [www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals).

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)

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 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](http://www.luton.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or contact the Revenues and Benefits Department in the Town Hall 01582 510346, email [Revenues.Admin@luton.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues.Admin@luton.gov.uk). Our Family Workers are happy to assist you with your application, please contact Mrs. Diggin or Mrs Overton.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**- This year we are having a virtual Christmas Concert and videos will be shared with parents before we break up for Christmas .

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES** - The parties for Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be held on **Friday 11th December** during the school day. The parties for Year 5 and Year 6 will be held on **Monday 14th December** also during the school day. **The children will be kept in their bubbles for the parties.** The children can wear their party clothes to school and 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 15th December. All children and staff are encouraged to have a school meal on that day. If your KS2 child normally has a packed lunch and you wish them to have Christmas Lunch please inform us via Forms on pmxparentmail and put **£2.30 (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 £2.30 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 15<sup>th</sup> December. 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**

11<sup>th</sup> December – Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Party

14<sup>th</sup> December - Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Party

15<sup>th</sup> December - School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day.

**TERM DATES** - We break up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and the children return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Thank you once again for your continued support during this busy time and difficult 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