



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

We Learn and Love in Faith

This term we celebrate...Compassion

Whole School Attendance: 97.1%

Advent is here!

Dear Parents

Last week we saw the end of the Liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King. Now we enter the first week of Advent; this special time of reflection and preparation as we await to celebrate Christmas.

The children had a great time collecting and creating the greenery to make their class Advent Wreaths and worked together across year groups to make items for the School and Parish Christmas Bazaar which is being held this Saturday. Thank you to the parent helpers who came and assisted the children in this, especially Mrs Figueiredo who prepared so much in readiness for the day.

I am sure that the bazaar will be a wonderful event, so please don't forget to put it into your diaries and bring your family and friends along to support the hard working team that is putting it together. Thank you to everyone who has supported it by sending in items for sale and for the raffle and will support on the day by running stalls. I believe that we have a special visitor who will be joining us again this year! The school honey will also be on sale.

On Wednesday 29th November, I attended Clifton Cathedral on behalf of our school community with Mrs Simone Thurbon, Vice Chair of Governors, for the launch by Bishop Declan of the year of 'Mission' as part of his call to become People of Hope. It was a very special service, when we collected information to support our school as part of this journey. As a result, we will be asking our children, parents, staff and community to reflect on our school Mission statement and how we aim to put this into action within school and working with the wider community. More Information will follow.

Advent Calendars: On Friday your child came home with an advent calendar; we are very grateful to the Figueiredos who kindly donated these. This is a lovely gift to our children, which also includes the Christmas story as well as chocolate!

Midday Supervision: We are currently advertising for a midday supervisor for five days per week, 8.75 hours per week, term time only – please see the school website for more information, and we would welcome your application.

New Governors: The governors have welcomed three new governors – Mr Scott Hawkins as parent governor, Mr Philip Rush as Foundation governor and Miss Georgina Mansell as staff governor.

Thursday 7th December: This Thursday the junior children (classes 3 & 4) will be going to St Peter's High School to watch their panto "Twas the Night before Christmas" and visit their grotto. Please can I remind parents that we need your permission slip for your child to be able to attend. All the children will be having an early lunch that day, and to be able to accommodate this there will be two options for lunch available – cottage pie, or vegetable soup with baguette.

Christmas Nativity and Christingle: The children are preparing for our Christmas Nativity and Christingle service that is happening on **Wednesday 13th December at 6.30 pm**. Please would you complete the slip overleaf to let us know if you are coming and how many will be attending so that we can have an idea of numbers for seating in the Church. We would also be grateful for parent helpers in making the Christingles the previous afternoon (Tuesday 12th) – if you are able to help in this please let us know. Thank you.

Calendar 2018: The children have drawn self-portraits, which have been kindly put together for a 2018 calendar by members of the PTA. These will be on sale at the bazaar on Saturday for £5 each. We would like to give every family

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the opportunity to purchase at least one calendar, so please complete the slip at the end of this letter and return to the office by Friday with the money if you would like a copy. A sample calendar can be viewed at the office.

Whole School trip to the Panto: Please send in your permission slip and voluntary contribution if you have not already done so, thank you. If you do this via ParentPay you will not need to return the slip as permission can be given at the same time. The children will be having an early lunch that day, and again, to be able to accommodate this there will be two lunch options available – beef burger in a bun, or jacket potato with beans.

After School Clubs: Just a reminder for those of you whose child stays for the second hour of after school clubs, from 4.30 pm until 5.30pm. Please can you let the office know so that we can ensure that the Mrs Wheatley and Mrs Lowe are fully aware who is attending for the full session. It is also important to let us know if your child normally stays but alternative arrangements have been made. The office will then ensure that the staff are aware. Many thanks.

Swimming in the Spring term: You may know that up to now years 2, 3 and 4 have been swimming at Stratford Park on Wednesday mornings. After Christmas this will change slightly so that years 1, 3 and 4 will be swimming. More information for those parents to follow.

best wishes

Jacqui Sollars

A time to reflect... **Compassion**

Gracious God, As the Advent season begins, we cry out to You. We come to You looking for hope. When everything else we rely on fails us, our only hope is in You. When we do not understand what has happened, we hope in You. We can hope for better days because we trust You. We know You and we know You are here with us no matter what we are facing. Some of us see only darkness this time of year. Some of us find life overwhelming. Some of us are filled with Advent joy. Wherever we find ourselves today, Loving God, remind us that our hope is in You. Be with us on this journey. **Amen.**

Dates for your diary...

Thur 7th Dec: C3 & C4 trip to St Peter's High panto
Fri 8th Dec:
Saturday 9th December (12 noon until 3 pm)
School and Church Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 13th December 6.30 pm Christmas Service in Priory Church.
Mon 18th Dec: whole school trip to Theatre Royal Bath
Tue 19th Dec: last day of term, close 1:30pm
Sunday 24th Dec: children's crib service at Church, all welcome
Thurs 4th Jan 2018: start of term 3
Wed 10th Jan: Young Voices

Christmas Nativity & Christingle

We will be attending the Nativity & Christingle service and there will be people in our group (not including any St Dominic's children)

I am/am not able to help make Christingles on Tuesday 12th December from 1:30pm.

Signed

Please print

PTA 2018 Calendar

I would like to purchase a 2018 calendar, and enclose £5 cash / cheque made payable to "St Dominic's PTA"

Signed

Please print