



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 5, 6th December 2021

December 2021

7 th	Handmade Theatre group Panto Performance in school – funded by the PTA
7 th	Nursery Christmas Carols - stay and play - 9 till 10.30am
9 th	Christmas Activity and Disco Day – arranged by the PTA – Non-uniform
9 th	Nursery & Reception to Lakeside Theatre to watch 'The Gingerbread Man'
13 th	Christmas Dinner Day
14 th	Y1 Nativity Performance – 9.30am (1HS parents)
14 th	Reception Nativity Performance – 2pm (FAW parents)
15 th	Reception Nativity Performance – 10am (FSD parents)
15 th	Y1 trip to the Galleries of Justice
16 th	Y1 Nativity Performance – 2pm (1HC parents)
17 th	Carol Service in church & Christmas Jumper Day 10am / last day of term

Tuesday 4th January – Return to school

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, the Christmas season is well and truly upon us and we have begun to celebrate Advent with the children in school. There was a fantastic turn out at mass yesterday and the children behaved exceptionally throughout. They sang and read so well and performed a beautiful liturgical dance to introduce the mass. I have received so many positive comments from parishioners and parents who thoroughly enjoyed watching the children play such an active part in the celebration. Many thanks to the parents, staff and governors who supported with this event.

In this season of Advent, I ask you to take time to pray as a family to prepare your hearts for Jesus' coming.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gifts of hope, peace, love and joy this Advent. As we prepare for your coming, help us make straight the path to our hearts. Help us to find time amidst the busyness of the season to speak to you, to encounter you and strengthen our relationship with you. Amen

With God's blessings,

Celine Toner



Travelling Nativity

Mary, Joseph and the donkey began their journey around our homes last Monday. Please remember to send them back to school each day with a contribution of food or toiletries for our class Reverse Advent Calendars.



Attending School Events

Last week you received a letter from me outlining the measures we are putting in place to be able to continue with our Christmas celebrations and activities. Please read this letter carefully and I thank you in anticipation of your support in keeping our school community safe in the run up to Christmas.

Parish Christmas Fair and Secret Santa

It was lovely to see so many of you at the parish Christmas Fair last Saturday. In total, over £9000 was raised – over £800 from the bottle stall alone. What an achievement! Many thanks to everyone who supported on the day. All proceeds from the fair will go towards repairing the Church building.

There was a great turn out at the Secret Santa event at the weekend too. For those of you who purchased tickets and did not attend, please collect your presents from the school office.



Activity and Disco Day – Thursday 9th December

Thursday 9th December is a busy day! The children will take part in lots of festive activities, including a visit from Santa and a disco! This will also be a non-uniform day and we invite children to come to school dressed in their own party clothes – as festive as you like!

Please note that if you have not yet paid for the school disco, please do so by tomorrow at the latest. As stated in the letter, there will be opportunities for the children to buy some small items at the disco, so please send your child with a small amount of money in a sealed envelope or purse.

Carol Service & Christmas Jumper Day

We hope to be able to take the children to Church on the last day of term at 10am to take part in our Carol Service. As is tradition, this is also our Christmas jumper day (to be worn over school uniform) where we raise money for Save the Children - £1.00 per child. Each class will contribute to the service by sharing the story of The First Christmas through readings, hymns and dance.

Please note that in order to avoid overcrowding in the church and to keep everyone as safe as possible for the Christmas holidays, **parents are not permitted to attend**. The event will be live streamed through the church website <https://www.churchservices.tv/nottinghamgoodshepherd> Please note that this event will only take place assuming it is safe to do so and our Covid rates remain low.

Staffing News

For your information, there will be some staffing changes when we return after Christmas, outlined below:

1. Miss Plummer (Year 3) has completed her training year and will now move onto a new school. We wish her all the best for the future as she embarks on her teaching career. We have successfully appointed Mrs Walsh who will take over from Miss Plummer when we return in January 2022. Mrs Walsh is an experienced teacher who has recently relocated to Nottingham after teaching at a Catholic school in London.
2. In January Mrs Powell (Year 2) will be reducing her days from 5 days to 2 days. She will share her class with Mrs Cordes who has recently returned from maternity leave. Mrs Powell will teach the beginning of the week (Monday & Tuesday) and Mrs Cordes for the remainder of the week.
3. Mrs Hurd (TA in Year 3) goes on maternity leave at the end of term. We wish her and her family all the best and look forward to some exciting baby news very soon. We have successfully appointed Mrs Woodward to cover as TA in school for the duration of the maternity leave.

School Crossing Patrol urgently required

We are in urgent need of a school crossing patrol person on Somersby road at the beginning and end of the day. Please see the attached flyer for further details and I would be most grateful if you could also pass the information on to anyone who might be interested in the position. Thank you.