



## The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 7, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### January

11 <sup>th</sup>	Panto in school for all children – courtesy of the PTA
12 <sup>th</sup>	Reception visit to Church
13 <sup>th</sup>	PTA coffee morning - after drop off – all welcome
19 <sup>th</sup>	Pyjama day in Reception
26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Dental Survey

### February

6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health week
6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings – face to face in school. More information to follow
9 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Non-uniform day – bring an item for the food bank
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pied Piper activity day for Reception
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>INSET Day – school closed</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term week
20 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school
21 <sup>st</sup>	PTA meeting – 7pm in school
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ash Wednesday

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to you all. I trust you all managed to get some well-deserved rest this Christmas whilst spending quality time with loved ones.

Many thanks for the lovely cards and gifts myself and the staff team received from you all. Your generosity and kindness really is appreciated.

We look forward to a very busy and exciting term ahead.

Best wishes,

Celine Toner

### School Mission Statement

At the beginning of last term we launched our new mission statement – 'Loving Jesus in all we do.' I have reshared the link to our mission video [here](#).

In order to further embed our mission and the values that underpin it, our school merit system has been renamed and is now called 'Mission Merits'. Children will receive merits in school for showing one of our school values of: joy, respect, mercy, achieving our best, gratitude, generosity, courage and service. Today your child will come home with a login for Class Dojo for you to download. From Monday you will be notified each time your child gets a Mission Merit for displaying one of the values. Please talk to them about it and ask them to explain the reason they were awarded it. The more we talk about these values at home and in school, the closer our children will come to truly live them out in their everyday lives.

Please note that Dojo will only be used as a means to inform you when your child receives a Mission Merit. Teachers will not access messages via Dojo, so as always, if you need to contact them, please do so via the school office.

## Behaviour Curriculum – ‘The Good Shepherd Way’

Your children may have come home this week talking about some changes we have made to the behaviour systems in school. This is not to say that we think behaviour in school is poor, more that we want to strive to make it even better!

Over the advent term, the staff team worked hard to write a behaviour curriculum, which we have launched with the children this week. This whole curriculum is underpinned by the values in our Mission Statement. The areas we have been focusing on are:

- Moving around school
- Classroom and playground behaviours
- Responding in class
- Completing work in books
- Manners
- Greeting visitors
- The start and end of the day routines.

The children have responded really well to all of the areas we have been practising and we can already see how this has improved learning across school.

The main area that affects you as parents is a **slight change we have made to the beginning of the day routine for children in years 2 to 6**. Systems for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 remain the same as they are currently.

Now, when children from Year 2 to 6 arrive to school, they will no longer go straight to their classroom. Instead they will line up on the playground and have some time to ‘meet and greet’ their friends and teachers; giving them an opportunity to share their news with each other before school starts. **Promptly at 8.55am, the gate will be locked and the bell rung.** A teacher on the playground will then greet the children collectively before they walk to their classes to begin learning. **In order for this to be successful, it is crucial children arrive to school on time.** Can I also remind you that all parents (years 2 to 6) should leave their children to walk into school on their own and not accompany them to onto the playground. If you need to speak to a teacher, please do so at the end of the day or via a message to staff on the gate / in the school office. Thank you.

### PTA News

The Christmas discos were a huge success with over £1200 raised! Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help - it was great to see so many new faces.

We are so excited for the panto next Wednesday and thank the PTA for their generosity in bringing this to school.

Please join the PTA for a cuppa after drop off on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January to chat about upcoming events. Hopefully some of those new faces will be able to make it!

### Woodpeckers Vacancy

The team at Woodpeckers are looking to appoint someone for their before and after school club at The Good Shepherd. The position is flexible – morning/afternoon or both.

If you are interested please contact:

Lynne Robinson

[enquiries@woodpeckerschildcare.com](mailto:enquiries@woodpeckerschildcare.com)

07929 064855

### Christmas Services at The Good Shepherd Church – a thank you from Fr Philipp

Fr Philipp has asked me to thank you all sincerely for attending the 5pm mass on Christmas Eve. The church was packed with over 700 people, with so many of our families there to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with the parish community. The children dressed in the nativity costumes really brought to life, for everyone, the story of the birth of Jesus our Lord.