



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 3, 6th November 2023

November

6 th	Return to school
7 th	Individual and family photographs – all children to come in full uniform please
7 th	PTA meeting – 7.30pm in school – all welcome
8 th	Holy Communion meeting in church – 7.30pm
10 th	Y6 Remembrance Day Liturgy – 9.30am – parents welcome
13-17 th	Anti-bullying week – wear odd socks on Monday
17 th	Flu vaccinations – parents to sign up for consent
23 rd	Good Shepherd open day for prospective parents
24 th	Non-uniform Day – bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair
25 th	Good Shepherd Christmas Fair: 10.30am -2.30pm in the Church Hall

December

3 rd	Advent mass in Church – more information below
4 th	Advent retreat day & reconciliation for years 4-6
7 th	PTA Christmas discos
12 th	Y1 Nativity – 10am
	Reception Nativity – 2pm
13 th	Y1 Nativity – 2pm
14 th	Reception Nativity – 10am
18 th	Choir to Valley Court care home
20 th	Reception trip to the Theatre
	Y2 Christingle service – 9.30am
22 nd	Carol service in Church – 10am
	Last day of term – return to school on Thursday 4 th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you had a lovely half term break. We have certainly got a busy few weeks ahead as we begin to prepare for our Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Please note that as it is photo day tomorrow, all children should come to school in full winter uniform – children in Y2 and Y5 need to bring their PE kit to change into.

You will see from the diary dates that on Sunday 3rd December we will again celebrate mass with our parish community as we begin the season of Advent. This is such a beautiful celebration and we love to see so the children in Key Stage 2 taking responsibility for many parts of the liturgy. Over the coming weeks the whole school, from Reception to Year 6, will be busy learning our Advent hymns to sing as part of the mass.

If you would like your child/ren to take part in the mass, please let us know via [this link](#) by Monday 13th November so we can ensure parts are given to children in good time. They will need to be in **full school uniform** and arrive in church by **9.30am** to ensure they are seated before mass begins at 9.45am (the front pews will be reserved for them).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Toner

Staffing News

We welcome Mrs Caroline Newson to The Good Shepherd today as she begins her new role as Office Manager. Mrs Newson has lots of administration experience and I'm sure she will soon get to grips with our school systems too 😊

Good Shepherd Open Day

We are excited to open school to prospective parents on November 23rd. If you know of anyone who is seeking a reception school place for their child in September 2024 and they are considering The Good Shepherd, please ask them to contact the school office to book an appointment – via email office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk or by phone 01159 262 983

Parish Christmas Fair: 25th November – 10.30am – 2.30pm

The parish Christmas fair is a wonderful social event and a great opportunity for the school and parish to work together to raise vital funds for the upkeep of our church. Your child should have come home with some raffle tickets today for you to sell to friends and family. **Also, don't forget it is non-uniform on Friday 24th November in exchange for a bottle for the bottle stall which is run by the school PTA.**

Anti-bullying week – 13th to 17th November

Next week is anti-bullying week. The theme we have chosen is 'All different, all equal' and throughout the week we will be exploring the importance of celebrating everyone's unique gifts and talents. We will also be talking to children about what bullying is and what they should do if they or someone they know is being bullied. The school council will be working with Mrs Shajpal to produce a child friendly anti-bullying policy which will be emailed out to you. On Monday morning at 9.15am some of the wellbeing ambassadors will deliver a whole school assembly, alongside me, which you are very welcome to attend.

Parental Survey Results

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Trust parent survey that was sent out towards the end of last academic year. Your views matter to us and help us celebrate what we are doing well alongside looking at ways we can serve our families even better.

Areas to celebrate:

- ✓ 97% of you report your children feel happy and safe in school.
- ✓ 95% report that the school is a joyful community, and that you understand and are supportive of the school's catholic mission.
- ✓ Over 90% of you believe we ensure the children behave well.

Areas that could be developed:

- Several of those who responded feel that communication methods could be improved.
- 17% of respondents feel you do not receive enough information about how your child is doing throughout the year.

We will be looking into these areas for development further over the coming weeks and I may need to consult you again later in the term to gather more information. Thanks again.