

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



**Number 3: Tuesday, 12 November 2024**

## A word from Mrs Toner

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 we have a photographer in school on Wednesday taking new photos for our school website.

Please ensure all children are in full winter uniform, except for those in Year 1 and 3 who should be in full PE kit – no logos please.

You will see from the diary dates below that on Sunday 1 December we will celebrate mass with our parish community as we begin the season of Advent. This is such a beautiful celebration and we love to see many of 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. Children who will soon begin their preparations for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion will be enrolled onto the programme during this mass.

If you would like your child/ren to take part in the mass, please let us know (via the link in the email this newsletter was sent with) by this Thursday 14 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



Contact us at [office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk)

## Staffing News

We welcome Mr David Tempest to The Good Shepherd this week as he begins his new role as Site Manager.

Mr Tempest has lots of links to our school community and both of his children attended here. I am sure he will be a great asset to the GSA team.

## Hot topic - packed lunches - what to pack

Over the past few weeks, we have noticed that some children are bringing several 'treat' items as part of their packed lunch.

Please pack just one small treat item as part of a healthy, balanced lunch and no fizzy drinks or juice please. Children in Key Stage 2 are welcome to bring a piece of fruit to eat at morning playtime - this should be kept separate from the usual lunchbox. Thank you.

## Anti-bullying week – 11 to 15 November

This week is anti-bullying week. The theme for this year is 'Choose Respect' which is also one of our school values. Throughout the week we will be exploring the importance of celebrating everyone's unique gifts and talents and showing respect to everyone we meet.

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.



Last year, the school council wrote a child-friendly anti-bullying policy which is attached with the email. Please do talk to your child/ren about this and also reiterate the importance of our school value of respect.

## Parish Christmas Fair: 30 November - raffle tickets and non uniform day

The Parish Christmas Fair takes place on 30 November from 10.30am – 2.30pm. It 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 last week for you to sell to friends and family. Please remember to bring these back by this Friday 15 November (both unused books and completed tickets and cash).

Also, don't forget it is non-uniform on Friday 29 November in exchange for a bottle for the bottle stall, which is run by the school PTA.

## Advent Giving – Children’s Shoebox Appeal

As part of our year of service, this advent we have decided to join our parish community in supporting the charity Operation Christmas Child: Teams4U.

This is a very special charity that works to ensure many children living in poverty or with conflict get a shoebox full of goodies at Christmas time. On Monday 3 December as part of our Advent reflection day, children in every class will be making up shoeboxes for boys and girls their age. We will be launching this with the children at an assembly next week, after which, they will come home with a flyer with further information on what they will need to bring in to school to support this wonderful cause.

For more information about the charity, visit [teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/](https://teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal/)

### Dates for your diary

Month	Events
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11-16th: Anti-bullying week – focus ‘Choose Respect’</li><li>• 13th - meeting in church for First Holy Communion 7.30pm</li><li>• 22nd and 28th: Good Shepherd open mornings for prospective parents – contact the office to attend</li><li>• 29th: Non-uniform Day – bring a bottle for the Parish Christmas Fair</li><li>• 30th: Church Christmas Fair: 10.30am -2.30pm in the Church Hall</li></ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1st: Advent mass in Church</li><li>• 2nd: Advent retreat day &amp; reconciliation for years 4-6</li><li>• 5th: PTA Christmas Discos</li><li>• 9th: Nursery Nativity</li><li>• 10th: Zoolab in for Year 1 (am)</li><li>• 10th: Reception Nativity – 10am and Year 1 Nativity – 2pm</li><li>• 12th: Y1 Nativity – 10am and Reception Nativity – 2pm</li><li>• 16th: Choir to Valley Court care home</li><li>• 17th: Christmas Dinner</li><li>• 18th: Y2 Christingle service – 9.30am</li><li>• 19th: Reception trip to the Theatre – more information to follow</li><li>• 20th: Carol service in Church 10am and Christmas Jumper Day</li><li>• 20th: Last day of term – return to school on Monday 6th January 2025!</li></ul>

### Good Shepherd Open Day mornings

We are excited to open school to prospective parents on 22 and 28 November. If you know of anyone who is seeking a reception school place for their child in September 2025 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](mailto:office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk) or by phone 01159 262 983.

Contact us at [office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk)