

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 4: Thursday 19 December 2024

A word from Mrs Toner

Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of this Advent term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given to our school community this year.

On behalf of all the staff at The Good Shepherd, we wish you and your families a very peaceful and joyful Christmas.

All the best for 2025! With God's blessings, Mrs Toner



Christmas Productions

The children in Reception and Year 1 were fantastic this year as they brought the true Christmas message alive with their performances of 'Twinkly Nativity' and 'Baarmy Bethlehem'. It was just wonderful to be able to gather together in the hall and enjoy this precious gift! Well done boys and girls, we are so proud of you.

Nursery have also produced a Nativity which is available to view on our YouTube channel (link in email).

Many thanks to the staff who worked so hard to put the productions together and to you, our parents, for supporting with costumes and learning lines.



Staffing News

I just wanted to let you know that Mrs Brunton will be going into hospital for a planned operation over the Christmas break. It is anticipated that she will be off work for 6 to 8 weeks.

As an interim measure, children whom she regularly works with will be supported by their class teachers and teaching assistants. Soft start will continue as normal for those children who access this. We send Mrs Brunton our love and prayers and wish her a speedy recovery.

Year 2 Christingle Service

It was so lovely to see so many of you here to join our Year 2 children in their Christingle Liturgy yesterday.

I am delighted to share their Christmas song, 'It's Christmas' with you which they have recorded as a Christmas gift to you all.

Please view via the YouTube link on the email and please share with others in your family to spread some Christmas joy.

Book-vent

I hope that the children have been enjoying the daily Christmas story videos this Advent. If you haven't already, check them out on our YouTube (link in email).

Don't forget – a very special guest will be reading on Christmas Eve! Many thanks to the staff for filming and to Mrs Moore for organising it all – such a lovely way to share stories with our whole school community.



Christmas Services at The Good Shepherd Church

You have already received a card from Fr Philipp outlining the services taking place in church over Christmas.

I especially want to draw your attention to the Christmas Eve family mass at 5pm where Fr Philipp would love for the children to come to church dressed as a nativity character of their choosing.

The aim is for them to process down the aisle at the beginning of mass and sit on the sanctuary for the duration so they can be a part of what is going on. If your child would like to join in with this, please meet in the parish centre 15 minutes before the start of mass where some parish catechists will be there to support. Thank you.

Contact us at office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk

Carol Service & Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 20th December

We are excited to finish the Advent term with our Carol Service on Friday morning. As usual, the whole school will be walking to church and the service will begin between 9.45 and 10am. If you are able to support us with walking the children down, please [complete this online form](#).

If you are able to help, please meet in the main office after drop off and Mrs Murphy will let you know which class you are supporting. We aim to leave school at 9am and will be back in time for lunch at 11.30am.

Please remember, this is also our Christmas jumper day (to be worn over school uniform) where we raise money for Save the Children - £1 per child. Some of our Year 6 children will be on the gate to collect the money as you come into school.

Dates for your diary

Month	Events
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19th: Reception trip to the Theatre – happening within the school day• 20th: Carol service in Church 10am and Christmas Jumper Day (bring £1)• 20th: Last day of term – return to school on Monday 6th January 2025!
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6th - back to school• 6th Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – 9.30am – all welcome

Office reminders

Collection arrangements: If notifying the office about collection arrangements after 2.30pm – please call rather than email or Arbor to ensure the message is received in time.

Reporting absence: A reminder to contact us by 9am on the first morning of your child's illness and every morning thereafter as per the attendance policy. Thanks for your support with this.

The School Office will be closed all of the Christmas Holidays. Back 6th January.

Main School Applications

For those of you who have a child due to start main school in September 2025, please note that the closing date for applications via Notts County Council is Wednesday 15th January.

All supplementary forms and baptismal certificates / faith evidence must also be emailed to the school office by this date.

Contact us at office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk