

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 5: Friday 10 January 2025

A word from Mrs Toner

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

Fr Philipp asked me to thank you all sincerely for attending the 5pm mass on Christmas Eve. The church was packed with over 600 people, with so many of our families there to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with the parish community.

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

We look forward to a very busy and exciting term ahead. Best wishes, Mrs Toner

PTA News

The Christmas discos were a great success with just under £1000 raised. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to help - it was great to see so many new faces.

Please do come along to our next PTA meeting – in person– on Friday 24 January at 9am where we will be discussing how we plan to spend the money raised as well as planning future events.

Hot Topic - Punctuality

I remain concerned about the number of children who are regularly arriving late to school. Whilst I completely appreciate that on occasion this can't be helped, there are many children who are late on a weekly / daily basis. The statistics for this week alone are below and this figure should, in fact, be higher because we have kept the gate open a few minutes longer because of the icy weather:

- Monday - 9 late children
- Tuesday - 9 late children
- Wednesday - 9 late children
- Thursday - 13 late children
- Friday - 9 late children.

Children who arrive late to school miss valuable learning time. Lessons in every class across school start promptly at 8.55am. Children arriving after this not only affect their own learning, but they disrupt the learning of others too. Moreover, children do not like being late – they feel uncomfortable entering classrooms when the learning is already taking place.

Please make an extra effort this New Year to bring your children to school on time. Thank you.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

In our Catholic Church, we celebrate a Jubilee every twenty-five years. It is a very special, holy year of forgiveness and mercy, a time to reset, and to renew our relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'. He asks us to be signs of hope for others through caring for our common home and supporting our sisters and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty.

At the Good Shepherd we do so much to share hope with others and are constantly striving to fulfil our school value of serving others. Already this year we have:

- Supported the Arnold Foodbank via our Mini-Vinnies team
- Sent 170 shoeboxes to children across Europe who are living with conflict and in poverty
- Provided financial support at Christmas time to families in need within our own parish community
- Sang for the elderly residents at Valley Court
- Shared our advent song with our families and parish community.

Please look at your child's class newsletter (coming next week) for more information about what each year group is doing to celebrate this Jubilee year.

Dates for your diary

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th - GREAT project starts in year 6• 13th -Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags• 20th - SATs meeting for year 6 parents - 5pm in school• 24th - PTA Meeting in school 9am and Preloved sale 3.30pm• 28th - First Holy Communion Preparations begin• 31st - Mr Barfield's Family Pub Quiz - details to follow (see email and Arbor)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11th - Safer Internet Day• 13th - PTA Non-uniform Day - bring an item for the food bank• 14th - INSET day - school is closed (HA4K holiday club open)• 17th-21st - Half Term Break• 24th - INSET day - school is closed (HA4K holiday club open)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4-5th - Parents Evenings after school• 6th - World Book Day - more info to follow.• 28th Reception Mother's Day Liturgy 10am and 2pm• 8th/15th/22nd - First Reconciliation in Church 11am• 30th - Stations of the Cross in church - 12pm
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd - Year 5 Easter Production - 2pm and 6pm• 4th Last day of term• 7th -21st - Easter Holidays• 22nd - Return to school

Behaviour curriculum - dress to impress

As we begin this new term, we are focusing on the parts of our behaviour curriculum that we feel need a 're-boot'. An area of particular focus is 'Dress to Impress'. Please support us with this by ensuring your children are dressed in full uniform each day, including a school tie (which are available to buy via Arbor).

PE tracksuits must be plain navy or with the school logo – no brands please. Also to remind you that makeup, nail varnish and hair accessories are not allowed. The PTA is well-stocked with pre-loved uniform for children in all year groups. The next sale is on Friday 24 January after school in the back of the hall.

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