

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



## Number 5: Wednesday 16 December 2025

### A word from Mrs Toner

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 term.

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 2026! With God's blessings, Mrs Toner.



### Staffing news

We say farewell to Mrs Brown this week as she leaves school to commence her maternity leave. We look forward to hearing about her new arrival very soon!

In Mrs Brown's absence, Mr Barfield will take on the role of interim SENCO and Mrs Shajpal will take over the responsibility of running our Enhanced Provision – The Ark. To enable her to do this, Mrs Toner will take over from Mrs Shajpal as Year 1SD teacher on a Monday.

### Christmas productions



Despite being plagued by illness, the children in Reception and Year 1 were fantastic this year as they brought the true Christmas message alive with their performances of 'Bundle of Joy' 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](#).

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

### Year 2 Christingle

It was so lovely to see so many of you here to join our Year 2 children in their Christingle Liturgy today. I am delighted to share their Christmas song, 'O what a Glorious Night' with you which they have recorded as a Christmas gift to you all. [Please follow this link to view the video](#) and please share with others in your family to spread some Christmas joy.

Follow our brand new Instagram account at [www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdCatholicPrimary](https://www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdCatholicPrimary).

## Advent giving

We have been living out our school value of 'Service' this advent by supporting those in our community who need our help. We delivered 180 selection boxes to children in care across Nottingham and the staff made up 25 chocolate hampers for vulnerable young adults.

The bottle stall for the church fair raised over £1,000, the PTA disco raised £1043 and the Jolly Jar sales raised over £200. We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity shown to us over this festive period.



## 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 account](#).

Many thanks to the staff for filming and to Mrs Moore for organising it – such a lovely way to share stories with our whole school community.

## Main school applications

For those of you who have a child due to start main school in September 2026, please note that the closing date for applications via your local authority is Thursday 15 January. All supplementary forms and baptismal certificates must also be emailed to the school office by this date.

## Carol Service & Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 19 December

We are excited to finish the Advent term with our Carol Service this Friday morning. As usual, the whole school will be walking to church and the service will begin between 9.45 and 10am.

If you have completed the form to say you are available to walk to church with us, 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. Our Year 6 Chaplaincy Team will be on the gate to collect the money as you come into school.



## 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 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.