



ST GEORGE AND ST MARTIN CATHOLIC ACADEMY



Weekly Newsletter - w.e. 15.12.23

Class Attendance this week ...

Nursery	91.29%	Year 3	97.50%
Reception	97.50%	Year 4	95.33%
Year 1	95.00%	Year 5	97.33%
Year 2	95.67%	Year 6	95.67%

Congratulations!
Reception & Year 3 have the best attendance this week!



Class Attendance this year ...

Congratulations!
YEAR 3 have the best attendance this year (so far)!

Nursery	92.25%	Year 3	97.73%
Reception	94.68%	Year 4	95.25%
Year 1	95.87%	Year 5	97.21%
Year 2	97.12%	Year 6	96.79%

Class Awards

Values & Virtues

Nursery -	Nik Labuda
Reception -	Prosper Omotosho
Year 1 -	Insha Fatima
Year 2 -	Luca Aiftincai
Year 3 -	Callum Lowe
Year 4 -	Elliott Tomkinson
Year 5 -	Alfie Plant
Year 6 -	Louie Nocilla

Reading

Nursery -	Jesse Baura
Reception -	Harper Nguyen
Year 1 -	Emmie Barcroft
Year 2 -	Zayaan Mirza
Year 3 -	Morecambe Edgington-Thompson
Year 4 -	Ava-Rose Johnson-Hardy
Year 5 -	Oba Eric-Famogun
Year 6 -	Ellie Simpson

Headteacher

Nursery -	Oliver Farrall
Reception -	Stanley Barlow
Year 1 -	Elijah Rata
Year 2 -	<i>No permission</i>
Year 3 -	Nina Onyejiaka
Year 4 -	Sebastian Baura
Year 5 -	Molly Wallace
Year 6 -	Iulian Rata

Most DoJo's



Nursery -	Rosa Gilbert
Reception -	Victoria Gkourra
Year 1 -	Subhaan Asad
Year 2 -	Miruna Aiftincai
Year 3 -	Ellis Affui
Year 4 -	Abigail Beru
Year 5 -	El-Spencer Affui
Year 6 -	Nela Kislanova

Citizenship

Nursery -	Layla Szalas
Reception -	Mylo Wood
Year 1 -	Grayson Seaman
Year 2 -	Ben Cartlidge
Year 3 -	Elliott Notley
Year 4 -	Eliyas Soleimani
Year 5 -	Saalih Shamil Al-Athari
Year 6 -	Tommy Senior



Staffing Update

Sadly, Miss Rushton will be leaving us at February half term. She will be leaving us to take on the role of Adult Support Worker. Miss Rushton has been at our school for almost 10 years and I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for our children over the years. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her lots of luck in her new adventure.

Mrs Brownsword will be returning from maternity leave at February half term and so will take on the role of Year 3 class teacher for the rest of this year.

After the Christmas holidays, Mrs Barlow will be joining us as HLTA. She will be teaching classes across the school and providing additional support to children. I know you will make her feel very welcome.



SHARP system

We have recently become a part of SHARP System. The SHARP system allows your child to make an **anonymous report about anything that is troubling them**. This can be personal, for example, they may be having difficulties with schoolwork, friendships or their mental well-being. The SHARP system can also be used for them to share a concern for someone else. The SHARP system can be accessed by following:

<https://sgsmnewman.thesharpsystem.com/admin>

Food Bank Collection

Don't forget, our Food Bank collection point accepts donations all year round.



Park and Stride

I'd like to remind all parents that there is the Park and Stride initiative operating for our school. Parents are allowed to park at Forest Park, or Northwood Stadium for free of charge. You simply need to complete a form to receive a permit. If you are interested, please call in at the school office.

Sunday's Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to St John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then," they asked, "are you Elijah?" "I am not," he said. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?" So John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord."

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him,

"Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo His sandal-strap." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord

John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear of John the Baptist. John was the son of Mary's cousin, Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. Elizabeth and Zechariah were getting older and thought that they were unable to have children, but God sent them John. John had a special job to do as he would prepare people for the coming of Jesus. He encouraged people to repent and baptised them in the River Jordan.

This Sunday, we light the third candle, the candle of Joy. This candle is pink and reminds us that although we are preparing for the coming of Jesus during Advent, He IS coming and we should be joyful for that.

Year of Prayer

In 2025 we celebrate a Jubilee Year of the Church. To prepare for this special occasion, Pope Francis has dedicated the year of 2024 to the Year of Prayer. Throughout the year, we will be sharing prayers with children, supporting them in prayer and teaching them ways to pray. We would love for you to share in this too. When we share the prayers of the month, say them as a family. Prayers can be simple and said at any time. Prayers can be to ask God for help, to thank God, to ask for forgiveness. They can be for ourselves, our friends, our family, people from around the world.

We can all pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.



Christmas Concerts

We have had four fantastic concerts this week led by our Key Stage 2 children. A big thank you to our staff for all of their hard work preparing the children. Thank you also to our families for their support with costumes and learning lines. And finally thank you to our wonderful children – they made me so proud this week.

Christmas Fayre

We had a very successful Christmas Fayre and raised £939.50!

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed – whether that is buying raffle tickets, sending in prizes or coming along to the event. A very special thank you to Mrs Bedson for organising everything.

Christmas Shop

On Monday 18th December and Tuesday 19th December, we will have our Christmas shop. This is an opportunity for your child to buy gifts for others. Gifts will be on sale from £1.50 to £5.00.



Disco

Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Disco

- Parents/Guardians of all children in **Foundation Stage** to remain with their child. **Please only one parent per child. Key Stage 1 parents DO NOT need to stay.**
- Please do not block the fire exits.
- If it is necessary to bring a child who is in Key Stage 2, then these should sit in the Year 6 classroom until 7pm and will then need to be supervised by a parent before the start of the Key Stage 2 disco at 7:15pm.
- As we are so tight for space, no prams should be brought into the hall.
- Any parents remaining with their child are responsible for their child's behaviour.
- Children should not leave the hall at the end of the night without their Parent/Guardian.

Only children attending St George and St Martin can attend the Disco. This includes younger siblings. Younger siblings cannot run around the dance floor.

Key Stage 2 Disco

- Children will not be supervised by staff before 7:15pm
- Parents should leave their child once they have registered.
- Children should not leave the hall at the end of the night without their Parent/Guardian.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in the disco
- Only children attending St George and St Martin can attend the Disco

Children must be collected promptly at 8:45pm



Christmas Week

During the last week of term, we will have our Christmas Week. This is a lovely week that we spend with the children in that magical time of Christmas.

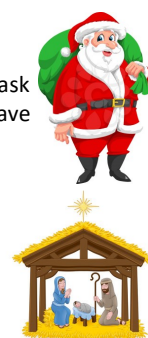
On Tuesday 19th December, we celebrate Christmas Eve. We ask that the children come to school in their pyjamas. We will watch a film together and spend the day getting ready for Christmas Day.

On Wednesday 20th December, we celebrate Christmas Day. Children come to school in their school uniform as normal. We ask that all children go to the school hall in the morning so that we can celebrate Christmas day together. We will hopefully have had a visit from a special someone too.

We will also have our Nativity Service in the afternoon, which will be led by Early Years and Key Stage 2. All are welcome to attend this, but families are reminded that this is a church service and therefore no photos or videos are allowed. You will be given a reverence guide on entry and we ask that you follow this.

On Thursday 21st December, we celebrate New Year's Eve with parties during the afternoon. Children come to school in school uniform. We are asking families to pay £1 per child on Scopay to help pay for party food.

Our week end on **Friday 22nd December** when we celebrate New Year's Day with our toys. Children come to school in school uniform.



Diary Dates for w.c. 18.12.23



Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday 18th December

9 – 11am Year 5 Inspire morning

1pm onwards Christmas shop

1pm Northwood Day Care visit school for Christmas concerts

3:30pm Clubs letters returned

Tuesday 19th December

Christmas Eve – all children to wear pyjamas

1pm onwards

Christmas shop

Wednesday 20th December

Christmas Day

2:15pm Nativity Service led by Key Stage 1 and Early Years

6 – 7pm Key Stage 1 and Early Years disco

7:15 – 8:45pm Key Stage 2 disco

Thursday 21st December

1pm onwards Class parties – please pay £1 on Scopay

Friday 22nd December

Toy and treat day – please send a small treat to eat at break time. No electronic games to be sent to school.

School closes.

Reminders

Funding for 2 year olds

The Department for Education have requested that we share the following information:

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

This does not mean that we will be accepting 2 year olds, but to make you aware of the possible funding available.

Uniform Reminders

As we are coming into the colder months, please ensure your child has outdoor PE kit – navy joggers, and navy hoody (this DOES NOT have to be branded). Children cannot wear their burgundy school jumpers and cardigans for PE.

A reminder that girls should be wearing white socks or grey tights. Black socks and tights are not part of our school uniform.

All Key Stage 2 children should either have a clip-on tie, or a 'proper' tie. Key Stage 2 children cannot wear an elastic tie.

Dougie Mac Toy Collection

Dougie Mac have asked us to do 'Bring a Toy' to school. This doesn't have to be a new toy, it can be a toy or book that your child no longer uses that can then be taken to one of the Dougie Mac charity shops and sold on. Not only does this raise money for Dougie Mac, but it also stops toys ending up in landfill and so helps towards us looking after our planet. The ladies also said that old clothing could also be brought. Please only donate items that are in good condition and can be used again.

Please bring any items in from Monday 11th December. The last day for donations is Wednesday 20th December.

Year 5 Inspire Morning

On Monday 18th December, we are giving Year 5 parents the opportunity to spend time with their child in the classroom, finding out more about the curriculum. There will be lots of fun activities planned and this is a fantastic opportunity for you to spend quality time with your child. If you would like to come along, there is no need to book a place, just turn up. We hope to see you there!



Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

D. Farmer

Mrs. Farmer (Principal)

