

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

celebrating life and learning

November, 2023

ADVENT REFLECTION

Draw me close to
You,

and free me from my
sin so that I may love
You with a pure and
holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You
carried your dear
Son in your
immaculate womb,
You also carried Him
in your heart.

Pray for me, this
Advent, that I may
surrender myself to
the will of the Father
in imitation of you.



FOUR WEEKS OF FUN!

The next four weeks promise to not only be busy, but also full of fun! We will all definitely be 'living life to the full' as we prepare for Christmas.

30th November: Christmas Movie Night: 3.30 - 5.30pm. All pupils are welcome - tickets include refreshments. NO tickets will be sold on the day to ensure sufficient refreshments are purchased.

2nd December: Christmas Craft Fair: 10.00 - 2.00 pm. There will be a range of stalls selling Christmas gifts, cakes etc. along with arts and crafts activities to complete and take home. There will be refreshments available.

4th - 7th December: Advent Liturgy in school hall. We will prepare the way for the Lord with our beautiful Advent prayer for parents/carers. Year 6 begin their Advent journey on Monday 4th December, with Y5 (Tuesday), Y4 (Wednesday) and Y3 (Thursday). All family members are welcome to these events which start at 9.00 am.



4th December: Christmas Bingo! An event not to be missed. Fantastic prizes to be won, Christmas raffle and refreshments. Eyes down at 7.00 pm (door opens at 6.30pm).

8th December: Christmas Jumper Day. Details for the annual Christmas Jumper design competition will be sent home soon. Christmas Jumper Day is also Week 1 of our Advent Fundraising - £1.00 for every Christmas jumper worn in place of a school jumper/cardigan/hoodie.



12th December: Year 3 visit to The Brindley to watch the Christmas Panto. Oh Yes They are!!

12th, 13th and 14th December: St Bede's Christmas Extravaganza of music, dance and drama. Tickets are available from the school office.

14th December: We're off to see the Wizard... Year 5 will be visiting the Liverpool Empire to travel to the land of Oz. We hope that they find their way home as many are in the Christmas Show at 7.00 pm that same day!



15th December: A day filled with family, food and frolics! One not to be missed. Information below.



17th December: St. Wilfrid Carol Concert at St. Michael's Catholic Church at 3.00 pm. Members of the school choir will be performing.

How is it nearly December? Time flies when you're having fun!

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON 15TH DECEMBER?

There are three events on Friday 15th December, occurring throughout the day.

Firstly, we are hosting a **Festive Family Read**. Parents/Carers, nans, grandads, or aunties and uncles are invited to school to join their child for a special storytime. We have lots of festive books for all ages available to read, and - if you like the book - available to buy at excellent prices. A letter will follow with times and a sign up form.

It is also **Christmas Party** time in classes. The parties will be filled with games (so teachers may ask for family games—watch this space!), quizzes and fun activities.

Finally, no great day can be complete without a **CHRISTMAS DINNER!** A letter will be sent for Christmas Dinner and payment is made via the Gateway App.

Sadly, our family members cannot stay for the party and/or Christmas Dinner, but we will definitely have little elves serving mince pies and biscuits!



ADVENT FUNDRAISING

WEEK 1: Sunday 3rd December - Saturday 9th December

Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 8th December will fundraise for the WWF. This is something which has been discussed with the Eco-Council and each class will fundraise to adopt an animal at risk of extinction. By adopting an animal with WWF we will be helping to restore precious habitats and protect the wildlife that relies on them. Each adoption will help bring our world back to life. A £1.00 donation per person will bring £338 for adopting 11 animals.



WEEK 2: Sunday 10th December - Saturday 16th December

This week will be dedicated to helping those local people who are less fortunate than we are; those who may not receive a Christmas gift if it were not for the children and families of St. Bede's! Items to fill a Christmas stocking/gift for someone who is sleeping rough or homeless: socks, gloves, selection boxes, sweets, biscuits and toiletries, such as body wash, deodorant etc. will all create a gift bag for an individual. A mix of men's and women's items are needed. There is no need to wrap anything as the St. Bede's Elves (teachers!) wrap the items once they are sorted into whole gifts.

WEEK 3: Sunday 17th December - Saturday 23rd December

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. For over 180 years, Mission Together (known internationally as Holy Childhood) has helped children around the world to grow in love of Christ and love of thy neighbour. In England and Wales, Mission Together's aim is twofold: to support essential children's projects in places of poverty and turmoil, and to support the mission of Catholic education through the creation of free catechetical classroom resources.



Thanks to the prayers and donations of pupils in England and Wales, each year Mission Together supports around 20,000 children living in poverty and turmoil around the world – regardless of their background or belief. This support is provided through our funding of feeding programmes, educational provision, medical assistance, residential care, pastoral and spiritual care. In such ways we make God's love known to everyone, everywhere. All sterling coins are welcome in each classes' Mission Together collection boxes: donations for own clothes (£1.00) on Friday 15th December, loose change from visits to the shop; coppers and silver from the family change jar will be gratefully received.

READING AT HOME

At St Bede's Catholic Junior School, we want to ensure that all children can read confidently and fluently. We hope that Father Christmas remembers books in our Christmas stockings. As the winter evenings are setting in, it would be wonderful if our families can:

- Read little and often

Just ten minutes a day will have a positive impact. We completely understand that children get tired, so sometimes reading just a few pages will help to reinforce that routine.

- Think of the positive impact on mental health

Frequent reading for pleasure can help to increase your child's well-being. Characters can often be role models and help support your child with empathy and how to deal with tricky issues.

- Read as a family: just 10 quiet minutes together during our busy days

Make sure you are reading too. This could include books, magazines, newspapers, comics etc.

- Plan for peace and quiet

Make the environment peaceful and quiet. Go somewhere where there are no distractions and it is comfortable. Make it special - many people choose to read at bedtime.

- But... also have fun!

Sometimes your child might not be enthusiastic to read. You could alternate reading each sentence. Hearing fluent reading can be just as beneficial as reading it themselves. Read a book at bedtime and use different voices as you read. Poor Mrs. Tiernan has read 'The Giant's Toilet Roll' with Aria every time she has a sleepover; she has no giant voice left!

