



2023/24

NUMBER 10

Friday 17th November '23

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ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 10



The Year of the Holy Spirit

THE WISE AND FOOLISH MAIDS



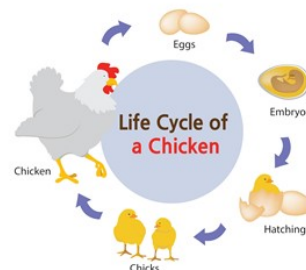
Since the time of Jesus' coming is unknown, we must watch and be ready. This is the meaning behind the Gospel we looked at this week. In this parable, bridesmaids are the main characters. Wedding processions from the bride's to the groom's home, accompanied by singing and dancing, normally happened at night and hence required light. So the bridesmaids are waiting outside the bride's home for his coming, to escort her to his home with their lamps ready. As the groom was delayed some of the maids' lamps went out.

They had no spare oil and so left to get some. The story tells us that we need to be patient and prepared for Jesus. The foolish maids were not fully prepared and so could ruin this wonderful occasion, with the groom being greeted in darkness with no pomp. The wise maids had to keep their lamps lit to honour the groom. The foolish maids were not excluded simply because the door was locked, but because they had insulted the bride and groom as well as all their relatives! Wise disciples remain vigilant for Jesus' return and so, as we approach the season of Advent, must we.

HEADS UP

St James

This week St James watched a very funny video about the lifecycle of a chicken – they learnt how they start as an egg and the steps they go through to become chickens. In English, they read "The Snail and the Whale" by Julia Donaldson and they rewrote the story. In Computing, they learnt how to use Sketchpad, a drawing app. They also enjoyed rehearsing the Nativity and in RE, they learnt about one of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching (Care for the Vulnerable) – they discussed what they could be doing to help the poor.



SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH

Nathan King is in his third year of study at Alan Hall in London. At the moment he spends his weekdays in studying and travels to the Cathedral to take up his duties at

weekends. He will soon be moving to the Cathedral full time. One project he is involved in is the setting up of a library of spiritual books for a parishioner drop in group. He speaks about his very rewarding placement at a Caritas Centre for people with disabilities. He asks for our

God of love

We pray for peace in our world, and an end to war.
Instead of hatred, let there be love.
Shelter your children and protect us.
Guide us and keep us from harm,
so we can build a world of love and live our lives in peace.
Amen



99% Attendance Owl awarded to St Barnabas Class for week ending 10th November 2023

96% Whole School attendance for week ending 10th November 2023

FOOD BANK



This week our Mini Vinnies handed over parent and staff donations to a member of our parish SVP. They were very most grateful for the support of the school for the most vulnerable in our local community. If you are able, please consider making occasional small donations of tins or packet food.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you for the gift bags that have already been returned, please continue to send these in.

This can be anything from unwanted gifts, toiletries, a scarf etc. Or simply pop along to the £1 shop and purchase something that a loved one would like to receive from your child.

If anyone has any prizes or services to donate for raffle prizes, please hand these in to the office or speak to a member of the PTA.

UNIFORM SALE

Our next 'Good As New' uniform sale will be on Friday 15th December.



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8.30 am until after the 10.30 am Mass



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We are making the final arrangements for our First Holy Communion preparation sessions. We are inviting all children in **Year 3 and above** to please complete and return the attached form, by **Friday 17th November**, if you would like your child to receive this Holy Sacrament. There will be a short parent meeting on the 13th December in school at 6pm.

HOLY SOULS

We remember those who have died and we pray for them during the month of November. In school the children have been invited to write the names of loved ones or anyone who has died and say a special prayer for the Holy Souls.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP



Following the Eco Warriors 'Cut Carbon Month', we will be holding a Christmas Jumper Swap for the category - Say 'no' to a new item.

Please keep an eye out for details of the day that this will happen, but start digging out those Christmas Jumpers!



NEW STARTERS September 2024

If you have a child due to start school, or know of anyone due to start, we have now set our Open Mornings for the September 2024 Intake

Thursday 23rd November 10am

Tuesday 5th December 10am

Wednesday 10th January 10am.

Booking is essential.

Please pass the word around to friends and families to come and have a look around our Outstanding Catholic School, as judged by the Diocese.

EYFS AND KS1 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

Pupils in EYFS will be performing their Nativity Play, "The King is Born" on Tuesday 12th December at 2.00pm. No tickets will be required for family and friends coming to this production.

Pupils in Years 1&2 will be putting on their production of "The Grumpy Sheep" on Thursday 14th December at 2pm and 6.30pm. ***Tickets are required for both performances.*** You will be advised of the times that children will need to be in school for the evening performance closer to the time.

There will be 2 afternoon and 2 evening performance tickets allocated to parents with children in Years 1&2.

Tickets will be sent home the week before the performance.

EVERY PERSON ATTENDING THE PERFORMANCE WILL REQUIRE A TICKET (including young children sitting on laps).

Both of these productions will be performed to the school on Monday 11th December during the school day.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Wed 29th Yr5/6 Trip to Winchester Science Park

DECEMBER

Fri 1st Crazy Hair Day (**nothing permanent**) in exchange for a **Fun Jar**

Thurs 7th Yr3/4 Topic Day

Fri 8th Dress Down Day in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola

Sat 9th Christmas Fayre (**new date**)

Mon 11th Advent Liturgy 7pm at Church Yr3—6

Tues 12th EYFS Nativity to Parents 2pm

Wed 13th Christmas Lunch and Party Day

Thurs 14th KS1 Nativity to Parents 2pm & 6.30pm

Mon 18th Yr6 Fundraising Day

Tues 19th Reconciliation in school 1.30pm

Wed 20th End of Term **1pm**

2023/2024 TERM DATES

Term 1 –Tues 5th Sept 2023 to Fri 20th Oct 2023, 3.20pm

Half Term Mon 23rd Oct to Fri 27th Oct 2023

Term 2 Mon 30th Oct 2023 to Wed 20th Dec, 1.00pm

Christmas Holidays Thurs 21st Dec 2023 to Fri 5th Jan 2024

Inset Day Mon 8th Jan 2024

Term 3 Tues 9th Jan 2024 to Fri 9th Feb 2024, 3.20pm

Half Term Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb 2024

Term 4 Mon 19th Feb 2024 to Thurs 28th Mar 2024, 1.00pm

Easter Holidays Fri 29th Mar 2024 to Fri 12th April 2024

Inset Day Mon 15th Apr 2024

Term 5 Tues 16th Apr 2024 to Fri 24th May 2024, 3.20pm

Bank Holiday Mon 6th May 2024

Half Term Mon 28th May to Fri 31st May 2024

Inset Day Mon 3rd June 2024

Term 6 Tues 4th June 2024 to Thurs 24th July 2024, 1.00pm.

Inset Day Fri 25th July 2024

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS—Mon—Thurs 8.00—3.30pm, Fri 8.00—8.30 and 8.50—3.30pm

ROSARY

Weekly Rosary Group will be held at 9am each Wednesday. It is a very informal group, our prayers last only around 15 minutes, all parents and carers are most welcome, just turn up after dropping off children.

PARKING

Parking continues to cause issues for our neighbours. Please remember to park courteously and safely. Please **do not** use the school driveway as a drop off point!