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Friday 1st December '23

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## ST PAUL'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 12



## The Year of the Holy Spirit

### THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND GOATS



Jesus begins the parable by saying it concerns His return in glory to set up His kingdom. All those on earth at that time will be brought before the Lord, and He will separate them "as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The sheep on Jesus' right hand are blessed by God the Father and given an inheritance. The reason is stated: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" The righteous will not understand: when did they see Jesus in such a pitiful condition and help Him? "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'"

The goats on Jesus' left hand are not so lucky. The reason is given: they had opportunity to minister to the Lord, but they did nothing. The core message of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats is that God's people will love others as themselves. Good works will result from our relationship to the Shepherd. Followers of Christ will treat others with kindness, serving them as if they were serving Christ Himself. While "goats" can indeed perform acts of kindness and charity, their hearts are not right with God, and their actions are not for the right purpose – to honour and worship God but for their own benefit/earthly reward.

### ADVENT

This Sunday sees the start of our new Liturgical Year. The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of our new year in the Church. We start by preparing for the birth of Our Lord and also to contemplate our readiness for His Second Coming. It is a time of great excitement and anticipation. These four weeks see us getting ready for this wondrous celebration and in school the children will be praying; their focus being each class' Advent Wreath as we count down the days to Christ's birth in that stable in Bethlehem.

### HEADS UP

St Peter & St Paul's

This week, St Peter & St Paul's Classes learnt about the number five in Maths and made a light box to put on shadow show. During Phonics, they learnt about flash words and they made a campfire in the Copse to show how fun darkness can be, like the people showed the owl how fun darkness can be in the book 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark'. In RE, they learnt all about Advent. They really enjoyed practising their Nativity, A King is Born.



### EYFS AND KS1 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

Pupils in EYFS will be performing their Nativity Play, "The King is Born" on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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).**

100% Attendance Owl awarded to St James Class for week ending 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

95% Whole School attendance for week ending 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### **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.



### **CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP Monday 11th December**

Please could any child wishing to participate bring in the jumpers they are offering for the swap on Friday 8th December. They will be issued with a voucher to use on Monday 11th at 8.30am. Parents are requested to accompany their children to the swap.



### **FOOD BANK**

Basket for any donations to the Food Bank can be found in the School Reception area.

Any donations of dried or tinned food products gratefully received.



### **BUG CLUB BOOK AMNESTY**

We are now missing quite a few of our Bug Club books. This means we have fewer books to give out to children to read. Please may we request that all pupils have a look for any Bug Club books they may have at home. These can be identified by the Bug Club logo on the front or back covers. We will welcome all returns!



### **CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE 23rd December 12noon**

St Bernadette's church in Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne, will be holding a Christmas Crib service for children on Saturday 23rd December. This is a short service of readings, carols and blessings starting at 12 noon, and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to join us, and children are invited to dress as one of the characters in the Nativity story.

### **ADVENT SERVICE**

All Middle and Upper school pupils will be involved in our annual Advent Service, which takes place in St Joseph's Church on Monday 11th December at 7.00pm.

**Please note that all KS2 children are expected to attend.**



### **CHRISTMAS POST BOX**

The Christmas internal post box will be open from Monday 4th December. Children are able to post their Christmas cards to other pupils in school. The deliveries will be made by the Yr 6 children. Please ensure that children's full names and classes are written on the envelopes to help the Yr 6 posties.



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



### **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

Tuesday 5th December 10am (Full)

Friday 15th December 1.30pm (New Date)

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.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 9th December 12–3pm**

Thank you to everyone who came in with Crazy Hair today and brought in a Fun Jar for the Tombola at the Christmas Fayre.



**Friday 8th December** is 'Own Clothes Day' in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola. Please can adults hand these over to members of the PTA who will collect them inside the infant playground on the morning of the 8th.

Tickets to visit Santa's Grotto are now on sale via Parent-Mail. Tickets are limited to time slots.

**Santa's Grotto**

Please contact a member of the PTA if you are able to offer your services to man a stall for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th December.

Please find our FaceBook page—PTA—St Paul's Catholic Primary School or email [pta@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:pta@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk)



### **UNIFORM SALE**

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

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **DECEMBER**

Thurs 7th	Yr3/4 Topic Day/Yr1/2 India Day
Fri 8th	Dress Down Day in exchange for a bottle for the Bottle Tombola
Sat 9th	Christmas Fayre ( <b>new date</b> )
Mon 11th	Christmas Jumper Swap 8am
Mon 11th	Advent Liturgy 7pm at Church Yr3—6
Tues 12th	EYFS Nativity to Parents 2pm
Wed 13th	Christmas Lunch and Party Day
Wed 13th	First Holy Communion Parents Meeting at 6pm in the school hall
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 <b>1pm</b>

### **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**

The Pangbourne Neighbourhood Police Officers have been in attendance this week and issued warning tickets and spoken to parents/carers about illegal parking. We also notify them of any vehicles reported to us.

### **St Paul's Stars Breakfast & After School Club Play Worker Job Vacancy**



We have a vacancy for a playworker at St Paul's After School Club. We are looking for someone to work 6 hours per week over two days from 3-6pm. Days to be agreed.

Applicants need to have experience of working with 4-11 year olds, good communication skills and ability to work as

part of a team.

Duties include setting up and delivering play activities, providing refreshments including preparing a simple tea for approx. 40 children at After School Club (basic cooking skills are necessary – Food Hygiene Qualifications a benefit.)

The successful applicant will have a good sense of humour and like working & interacting with children.

For more information and to request an application pack please email the club at [st.paul.asc@gmail.com](mailto:st.paul.asc@gmail.com)

**Closing date – 6th December 2023**

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure will be sought from the successful candidate.