Issue 273 Friday 5th December 2025

HEADLINES

	DECEMBER
5th	**CHRISTMAS FAYRE 3:15PM START**
6th	Y3/Y2 Family Parish Mass 6pm
8th	Y3/Y4 Dodgeball @ Streetly @ 3:40pm
9th	KS1 Multiskills 9:15-11am Manor Farm EYFS Nativity @ 10am KS1 Nativity @ 2pm
10th	Y4 Mass in School @ 9am First Reconciliation @ 1:30pm @ Church Y5/Y6 Sportshall Athletics @ Streetly 3:45pm
11th	Santa Dash – wear something red 9:30am KS1 Nativity 11:30am Singing for Forget Me Not Group (Y2) 2:15pm EYFS Nativity
13th	**Special Bambinelli (Baby Jesus figures) to be blessed at 6pm Mass. This is the Christmas Special friends Mass supported by Mini-Vinnes/Gift and Caritas teams. Please join us.**
15th	Y2 singing at Little Aston Care Home @ 1:30pm
16th	Celebration assembly parents invited @ 9am
17th	Whole School Mass @ Church @ 10am **Christmas Jumper Day Donation of £1 for St. Chad's** Christmas Dinner Day (order by 5th December) KS2 Concert @ 6pm @ St. Anne's Church
18th	9:15am I Rock Concert 1:15pm Virtual Santa
19th	INSET SCHOOL CLOSED
24th	Family Parish Mass for Christmas @ 4pm
	JANUARY
5th	Return to School Recycle your Christmas Cards
6th	Whole School Mass @ 9am Epiphany end of Jubilee year – Pilgrims of Hope - Legacy
9th	MUFTI Unwanted Christmas Gifts
10th	Family Parish Mass @' 6pm
12th	PTA Zoom Meeting @ 7:00pm
13th	Y6 Mass @ Church arrive @ 8:45am Mass @ 9am
14th	Times Tables Zoom Meeting Y4 and Y6 SATS meeting via zoom
17th	Family Parish Mass @ 6pm

Headteacher—Mrs T Johnston
tjohnston@st-annes.walsall.sch.uk

Word

The word is **preparation.** As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, how are we preparing ourselves spiritually?

Y4 Mass in school Wednesday 10th December @ 9am. All welcome.

Headteacher Message

This week my thanks goes to everyone who has been involved in anyway to help to organise and deliver our Christmas Fayre. Behind the scenes there have been numerous meetings, people have given up their free time to ensure that the children at St. Anne's could have a wonderful afternoon of fun and games. My thanks to the whole school community who have given so generously by bringing in bottles and chocolates for the tombolas. Next week, we will be able to share how much we have raised, hopefully we will have taken a giant step towards our IPAD replacements.

Next week, we will host our EYFS and KS1 Nativities, these are truly special events in the life of the school, and we look forward to welcoming you all. Y3 will celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday 10th December, a momentous day for them in their faith journey. Finally, well done to Y6 who were excellent ambassadors for our school as they sang at Walsall Arena in Once Upon a Christmas Concert – a great evening. Have a Blessed weekend all.

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Nursery Our classroom has transformed into a magical Christmas grotto! The children have loved exploring the festive decorations. In RE, we have been learning about 'Advent' and the children have noticed that our prayer table is now purple. This colour reminds us we are preparing for the birth of Jesus. Our Christmas crafts have officially begun! This week the children have been creating their very own 2026 calendars- you are all so creative!

Mr Johnston Mrs Lingwood and the Nursery Team

Reception Another excellent week where Reception have started on their journey through Advent to wait and prepare for Jesus' birth. The week started with our class trip to Ash End Farm where the children helped the farmers feed and pet the animals, sang to the animals, acted out a nativity play in a stable complete with a real donkey before visiting Santa in his grotto. The children were impeccably behaved and staff commented how impressed they were with such young children. The week finished with the live stream with OneLife Music and our PTA Christmas Fayre. Well done children for practising your words for the nativity play - I'm sure parents will be very impressed with our performance.

Mrs Turley and the early years team.

Year 1 This week we have been learning about the Wednesday Word Preparation. We have already stared our Advent preparations in class by using the Advent Wreath and our Advent Calendars. Thank you to everyone who gave Mrs McCabe an Advent calendar to count down with the children too. A lovely, thoughtful gift. Can the children tell you what we are preparing and waiting for during this season? The children have been working very hard on their Nativity and we are very excited to be sharing this special moment with you next week. We have been sharing lots of excitement about our 'elf' visitors in class and at home too!

Mrs McCabe

Year 2 This week, we have been making time to make sure that our wonderful nativity is ready for our audiences next week! You will all be very impressed by our brilliant performers. In R.E, we have been continuing our work on Advent and reading stories about Zechariah, Elizabeth and John the Baptist. I wonder if you can talk about these special people at home? A festive end to the week at the Christmas fayre- hope you all enjoyed and have a lovely weekend!

Miss Regan

Year 3 Year 3 have been working hard on their snowman stories this week and we have been excited to find out where the snowman and James will fly to and what will happen next. We are working hard on our 4 times tables so please also practice these at home. We have Reconciliation on Wednesday. We will be preparing on Monday and Tuesday so I Belong books will be kept in school for work on these days. We will go to the library on Wednesday morning so please bring in library cards. We also look forward to our Saturday Mass this week at 6pm. Thank you

Mrs Robinson

Year 4 We have had another fun week in Year 4! Mrs Flower took us to the library on Wednesday afternoon and we had a great time selecting a book to take home. We were very creative in science and used a pair of tights and crushed biscuits to show how our digestive system works. We took it in turns to add water to the biscuits and to squeeze the water out from the tights. It didn't smell very nice but we had lots of fun and can now explain the digestive system in great detail! Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Jones

Year 5 This week started with two fantastic Enrichment Days - I have been so impressed with your teamwork when making your board games. You demonstrated excellent creative skills and were able to code the micro:bits to perform some tricky tasks. Well done! In English, we have been writing news reports about the invasion of flying pigs based on the book 'Tuesday'. Keep an eye out for the website to see these published. In RE, we finished our Walsingham pilgrimage leaflets ready to move on to learn about Advent next week. We even had time for two Science investigations on Thursday afternoon. I think we all need a rest this weekend after all that hard work!

Mr Caddick

Year 6 We have had a very creative few days at school this week Year 6. I was so proud of you all with your fantastically festive performance at Walsall Arena last Thursday night. You sang beautifully and followed all instructions from the conductor like professionals. And then on Wednesday you sang to the Parish Coffee morning - I could not be prouder! You also completed outstanding enrichment day projects - designing, creating and evaluating electronic board games using Micro:bits. Next week we need to write chapter 13 of ROTHMC, start our Advent unit and finish off all other subjects so be ready for a busy 2 weeks!

Miss Keedwell

Headteacher Awards

Nursery	Ivy & Sienna
Reception	Emilia & Tommy
Year 1	Rocky & Rae
Year 2	Elowen & Albert
Year 3	Ben & Rogan
Year 4	Aluna & Caleb
Year 5	Billy & Lilly
Year 6	Y6

Congratulations everyone

After School Clubs

Monday: Y1/Y2 Dance
Monday: Drama Y5/6
Thursday: KS2 Dance

All clubs dismissed at main reception. If you wish to enroll email mmiller@st-annes.walsall.sch.uk

Learn Its Movers

Year 1 Jaxon, Arthur, James, Lara & Cillian
Year 2 Eshan
Year 3 Nora & Teddy
Year 4 Ashton, Thomas, Charlotte, Matilda, Lyla & Honor

Well done everyone.

Building The Kingdom

ADVENT

We are asking all pupils to support our Advent appeals, as Catholics this is a crucial part in our preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Helping others less fortunate than ourselves is a central aspect of our faith.

BTK Advent themed weeks
Week 1 – hope
Week 2 – peace
Week 3 – Joy
Week 4 – love

In Week 2 we are thinking about Peace – we are going to have a peace march. We are going to pause and pray for a world where everyone has peace.

TTRS

Rock Hero
Grace

Our very first one, congratulations GRACE - AWESOME

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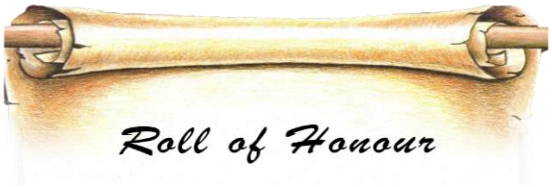


Sporting Achievements this year.

Don't forget to tell us about your out of school achievements. Email Mrs Baynham-Hughes on

Sbaynham-hughes@st-annes.walsall.sch.uk

Year	Pupil
Y4	- Florence was awarded a trophy for Outstanding Acro dance student at the Dance City presentation
Y4	Honor was awarded player of the match in an 11-0 win
Y4	Lola B was awarded parents players of the match.

Sportsmanship Award of the week

Reuben M (Y3) for always including teammates in football matches and impressing your teachers with your willingness to always shake hands at the end of a game regardless of the result.

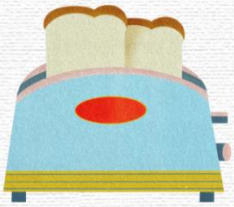
KS2 Dance Group - Congratulations to you all for performing an excellent routine for your parents/grandparents on Thursday evening. You have all worked so hard this term.

Year 5 boys played in a friendly on the school field, unfortunately losing to Millfield Primary School. Player of the match awarded to Rome for excellent resilience and determination when the goals were going in against us.

Please bring the correct money for the items.

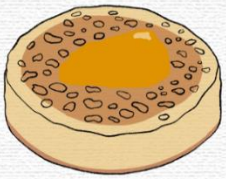
BREAK SALES

Some children in our school leave home without any breakfast and we're here to change that. As of Monday 3rd February we are going to be selling...



TOAST 30P

PANCAKE 50P



CRUMPET 50P

BAGEL 50P

SAUSAGE SANDWICH
£1
MONDAY ONLY

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This half term our Catholic Social Teaching is Option for the Poor

Putting people most in need first

Preferential option for the poor

Poppy the pōpokotea's story

When Poppy hatched she was all alone and never knew her parents. She remembers having to rely on kind birds caring for he and bringing her worms to eat.

As one of the youngest and most vulnerable, she understands what it was like to have nothing and the need to rely on others.

She is much older now and has started a "Worms-4-U" service for birds in need everywhere.

Poppy's story tells us that we should think first about the needs of people who need help the most.

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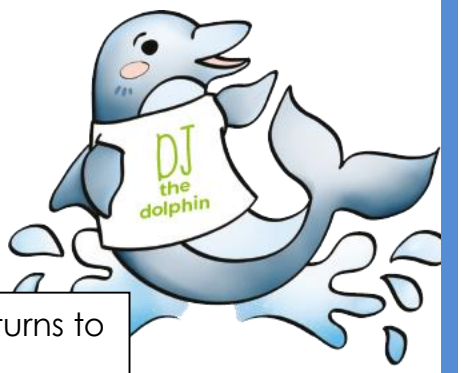
Sharing fairly

Distributive Justice

DJ the dolphin's story



DJ is part of a large family of dolphins (a pod) His family take turns to catch their food (usually fish).

Some of his older brothers and sisters don't share all that they catch on purpose. DJ, being one of the youngest, is often given a small portion while some of the others take a few each.

DJ is not afraid to tell his family that this is not fair.

Like DJ we should make sure that everyone gets their fair share.

Our Advent Appeals

Mini Vinnies have committed to the following fundraising for Advent. As Catholics we are tasked in Advent to undergo a process of preparation. This is to prepare ourselves for the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus and also to prepare for his second coming. Hence during Advent one of the things we should engage in is some form of sacrifice. The Mini Vinnies have collectively decided on these initiatives. This fundraising should be something that the children actively participate in, by perhaps donating their pocket money to buy the item or sacrificing a Christmas gift to give to someone less fortunate.

Mini Vinnies would like children to bring in (for homeless people) Fireside Charity B'ham. Hats, scarves, gloves and socks – thermal items would be fantastic. Male and female items. We would like new items, so that these can be gifted to the homeless as a Christmas gift.

Secondly, they would like to collect toiletries for St Chads.
Gift sets, soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shower gels etc.. These items can be for adults (male and female) and children.

Finally, anyone wishing to donate food (for Christmas) to St. Chads we will also take these items. We will be delivering to St. Chads on the 11th December.

These appeals are not the same as our MUFTI days for Chocolate and bottles and Holiday Hampers (coloured themed items). During those MUFTI days we are collecting items for our Christmas Fayre to help ourselves, by funding our new computers. We hope that you can give generously to the charity appeals as they will make a genuine difference to people.

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Based on the gospel for Sunday 7 December, Second Sunday of Advent: Matthew 3:1-12

"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

John fulfils the words of the prophet Isaiah, who told of a voice crying out in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord.

During this Advent season, we are also preparing the way of the Lord. We are called to repentance.

It is an opportunity to think about the times when we have not got things quite right. The times when our actions have hurt others or had negative consequences - whether for the people closest to us, for our community or our world.

We reflect today on the times when we have placed our needs over the rights of our sisters and brothers living in poverty. The times when we have prioritised convenience over protecting the environment.

Repenting is not just about saying sorry. It is about changing our ways and trying to live differently. We are called to straighten paths, by looking at what is crooked and unjust in our world and playing our part in transforming these systems and situations for the good of all.

Live Simply

Wanted your old technology. As many people will be receiving new phones, tablets, computers and chrome books for Christmas, we would love to have your old devices (that are good enough to recycle). We will then recycle the devices and all the money raised will go towards replacing our out of date devices. Help us by recycling your devices and live sustainably and simply – much better for our planet.

Devices can be brought into school at any time. Thank you

Are you wondering what to buy someone for Christmas? CAFOD offer some great choices. Follow the link below and give a gift that could make a real difference in someone life.

view.email.cafod.org.uk/?qs=bde99c2f65f1b56c1e4c8a5ecf5b6af2b22e7b35c266b29ce81871589db6c7cb1b3d90cd3a7c91894c9203a42bf6ccf9ef53b9a915c17ffc4ef0b43e003a40e2c3ddc925d723fefc92b8b7fb72ecdc6a

As we continue our Live Simply Journey, promoting these gifts are a real way that we can demonstrate living in solidarity and sustainably with others.

Ask your child about our new Live Simply Pledge Tree, they will help you to understand the importance of Live Simply.

This Week's Idea to Live Simply:

Given to us by Year 4

Don't leave your games console on standby – switch it off.

Prayer

God of mercy,
guide us as we seek
to straighten the paths of injustice
and prepare a way for you.
Lead us in your ways
as together we bring about change
for the good of all.
Amen.