

Reception Newsletter – Friday 5th December 2025

Phonics – Level 2

We have spent the week reviewing the sounds and tricky words learned so far and practiced skills of reading and writing 3 letter regular words. Our final Level 2 sounds will be introduced next week.

RE – The 4 Weeks of Advent

We have learned that Advent is a time for waiting and preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus.

We thought about messengers from God in the Christmas story – angels and stars. We heard the story of how the Angel Gabriel gave Mary and the shepherds a message from God about the birth of Jesus. The star that guided the Kings was also a sign from God.

Christmas in Reception

Christmas has come to Reception!!!!

The role play corner has been transformed into Santa's Grotto complete with a Lonely Christmas Tree. The children have been so kind to decorate and look after the Lonely Christmas Tree and then will spend the next few weeks making decorations for him and keeping him company in the run up to Christmas. They will also spend time dressing up in Christmas costumes, making Christmas crafts, playing Christmas games and using small world Christmas toys. I'm sure there will be lots of fun.

Colourful Christmas Hampers

Thank you so very much to everyone who has helped create our amazing Reception Hampers. The raffle tickets have already been added for the chance to win the purple and silver hampers. You can purchase more for at the Christmas Fayre for your chance to win a different colour hamper. A very big thank you must go to Mrs Long for working so hard in her own time to put these two wonderful hampers together. I'm sure you'll agree they look amazing.



Building the Kingdom for Advent

As we journey through the season of Advent. we are waiting and preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus. We are asked as Catholics to think of those less fortunate than ourselves and give a little to charity.

This week the children have worked hard to make cards for those members of our community who might be sad or lonely over Christmas. This will help share the joy and hope of Christmas with them and young children's art and crafts always brings joy to others.

Thank you to those who have donated hats, gloves, scarves, socks and toiletries already. You can continue this throughout Advent and can continue to send in food items for those less fortunate than us.

Next week our Advent focus is a week of PEACE. In Reception we talk about peace being not arguing with our friends. We will spend the week doing this in school. You might like to extend this idea at home for children not to argue with their siblings.

Nativity Plays

Nativity Plays take place:

Tuesday 9th December at 10am

&

Thursday 11th December at 2.15pm.

Tickets are available from Arbor and all information has been sent through by Mrs Miller. Thank you for helping your child learn their words at home. I hope you enjoy our Nativity Play and it helps you remember the true meaning of Christmas.

It can be difficult for young children to perform in front of so many adults, so I need your support throughout the performance.

I have said to the children that they must not wave at you during the performance as they are people from Bethlehem, but they can give you a little smile. Please try not to distract your child by waving at them throughout. They've been told to look at Mrs Turley all the time so they know their clues of when to go on the stage and what to do etc. There will be plenty of time at the end of the production to wave with your child.

We ask that you refrain from videoing or taking photographs through the performance as this often puts children off or they lose their confidence – they've been doing so well. There will be an opportunity at the end for you to take pictures of your own child.

We hope you enjoy the performance.

Bambinelli Sunday Family Mass – Saturday 13th December

A Bambinelli is a simple figurine of baby Jesus from a nativity crib set. At St Anne's, all children make their own simple depiction of Jesus through arts and crafts. These will be brought to church for Father Gwil to bless on Saturday 13th December at 6pm. You are more than welcome to bring your own figurine from home to be blessed too.



This is also the Mass for Y6 & Reception's Special Friends. Bishop Timothy will be leading this Mass with Father Gwil. It would be wonderful to welcome as many children as we can – especially if you didn't come to the last Mass.

General

Tuesday 16th December - Celebration Assembly for the award for Autumn 2 2025 takes place on Tuesday 16th December at 9am. Keep an eye on the newsletter next week for those children receiving the awards for the half term and the Values & Virtues.

Wednesday 17th December – This is our Christmas celebration day. It is a MUFTI Day where children can wear Christmas jumpers / outfits. There will be a whole school Mass, Christmas Dinner and a class party in the afternoon (no extra food needed as they will have had a big Christmas lunch).

Thursday 18th December – School closes for Christmas Holiday

Monday 5th January – School reopens for Spring Term with Mass at 9am. You are welcome to join us.

Friday 9th January – Mufti Day for unwanted Christmas gifts. This could be smellies, to chocolates, to small toys & games. They can be for men, women or children. They will be used by the PTA for Mother's Day shop and for raffle prizes through the year.

Have an enjoyable Christmas Fayre

Mrs Turley