

Reception Newsletter – Friday 12th December 2025

Phonics – Level 2

This week we have been learning the ‘double letter digraph’ sounds for ‘ff’, ‘ll’ & ‘ss’. We have learned that (for children at this age) these double letter digraphs are usually found at the end of words except in some of our names. This will help children in their spelling. The children loved learning these and are starting to spot other double letter digraphs in children’s names on lists around the class.

The Parent Support Sheets and flashcards can be found on the class Phonics & Reading webpage: <https://www.st-annes.walsall.sch.uk/phonics-reading/>

RE – The 4 Weeks of Advent / The Christmas Story

As we moved to the second week of Advent, we lit the second purple candle on our Advent Wreath and shared daily prayer with Dan & Emily from OneLife Music. We have taken the time to prepare ourselves for Christmas by creating our own prayers and sharing them with others.

We have acted out many parts of the story of the birth of Jesus this week with children taking turns playing different roles.

Nativity Play

WOW! What amazing production of The Nativity Story – one of the best. The children have worked so hard to learn their own lines and the songs that when they put it together, they created a wonderful performance together. They even knew many of the other parts. They were all so confident and clearly spoken and the narrators managed the microphone with ease. Well done everyone! I am so proud of you all.

Thank you also for your support. By making sure your child knows their part has helped put the whole thing together. I hope you enjoyed the production and that it showed you the real meaning of Christmas.

If anyone took a photograph of the whole of Reception on stage at the end and most children are looking forwards, I would appreciate it if you would email me the photograph aturley@st-annes.walsall.sch.uk. I didn’t manage to get a whole group one this year.

Building the Kingdom for Advent

This week the children have worked hard to make prayer cards for those members of our community and parish. They will be given out at church and hope they bring joy to others.

This week our Advent focus has been a week of PEACE. In Reception we talk about peace being not arguing with our friends. We’ve tried hard not to argue with others and be good friends. Ask your child if they can remember the sign for peace.

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. The prayer cards the children have made will be distributed.

Missing Hats

We have some missing hats in school:

- Navy blue hat with a small superman logo at the front and a name sticker inside
- Cream cable knit hat with name sticker
- Pink hat with a unicorn motif and a name sticker

Please check through your child's hats to check they have the right one. If you find one of the missing ones, please send to school so they can be returned. Thank you.

Reception Reward for Filling their Marble Jar

They've done it again! The class are doing an excellent job at working as a team so it means our marble jar has been filled again. On Thursday afternoon we will be having a film and popcorn/crisps afternoon as their reward.

Dates for your Diary

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. **Last day to wear uniform this half term.**

Wednesday 17th December – This is our Christmas celebration day. It is a MUFTI Day where children can wear Christmas jumpers / outfits / party clothes (consider appropriate footwear for walking to church and playing outside). **No uniform is needed.** There will be a whole school Mass at church for 10am, 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 – This is a MUFTI Day. **No uniform is needed.** Children can wear their own clothes to school as a thank you for everything they've done this term. Reception will have a film and popcorn afternoon. Any allergies please let me. School closes for Christmas Holiday – normal time

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 a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Turley