



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

6th January 2023

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and have managed to have a few days rest since. It was lovely to see the children back at school yesterday and it is nice to start back to a short week to get everyone going again.

The highlight of the week was welcoming Father Dave from St Columba's into school to say Mass for the first time. He has been popping in quite regularly over the last half term working with groups of pupils. We are so lucky to have two priests who are so good with the children. All of the children were fantastic in Mass and we had a lovely Epiphany celebration. I was absolutely delighted to have so many parents at Mass. It is the most we have ever had other than at an Induction Mass or Leavers Mass. Please remember you are almost always invited. There are the odd occasions where we can't invite everyone but we will always message you to yet let you know so assume you are invited.

On Monday, I shared with the children Psalm 24:1 – **"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it"**. We made a promise as a school community to try even harder to look after our environment and our equipment better. To try not to be wasteful particularly with our food. And finally, not to drop litter, particularly wrappers from snacks and sweets. We also talked about looking smart and making sure our work looked smart. It would be really helpful if you could reinforce these things at home as well. Thank you.

Finally, I'm sure you have been watching the final touches being made to our outdoor spaces. Thank you for being so patient. The poor workmen have been really battling with the elements over the last few days. They were hoping to have it finished either today or on Monday but it might be the end of next week now. I can't wait to see the children using it!!!! Thank you for your patience.

God bless,

M. Holden



Reception Admissions 2023 - 2024

A quick reminder that admissions for Reception 2023 are open but close shortly after Christmas. Please remember that you need to fill in a form for school as well as applying in the normal way through Buckinghamshire Council. Forms are available in the school office, and in the local parishes.

Attendance Monitoring

A number of families have received letters to inform them that their child or children's attendance was below 90% last term. This is the level that children are identified as persistent absentees when the Department for Education collect data from schools. We are under a new obligation this year to monitor those children more closely and refer them to the local authority if their attendance doesn't improve. I have had to send out about 20 letters this term, which is the most I can ever remember. If you are not sure what your child's attendance is then please contact the office who can let you know.

The national evidence is pretty clear on achievement and attendance:

Attendance	Percentage of Children achieving the expected level at the end of Year 6
100%	94.6%
95%-100%	88%
90% - 95%	80.2%
85% - 90%	70.4%
80% - 85%	61.5%
75 % - 80%	56.5%
Less than 75%	48.5%

As a school, we also see this connection between how well children do and their attendance. Children who have 100% attendance are almost guaranteed to get to the expected levels. Once attendance is below 90% then basically 3 out of every 10 children won't achieve the expected level.

I cannot emphasise enough the important of good attendance. We work so hard to get our children into good schools and yet we can completely negate the unbelievably positive effect a school has if our children have poor attendance.

Thank you
Mr Holdsworth

A Message from Ten Ten Resources January 2023

With the arrival of the new year, we start to put away signs of our Christmas celebrations: we finish off festive food, box up decorations, maybe recycling Christmas cards (and Christmas trees!) and perhaps generally breathe a sigh of relief about the return to normality. As we busy ourselves discarding all things of the festive season and look ahead to what 2023 might have in store, it's good to pause and remember that we are still in the season of Christmastide, which officially ends at Candlemas on 2nd February. We can leave many things behind, but hopefully the image of Jesus, God's gift of joy, hope and peace for the world remains.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout January and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope and pray that the new year brings peace and blessings for you and your family.

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>