

ISSUE

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The
Holy Family
R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

WISHING YOU ALL THE BLESSINGS AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish all parents, grandparents, family and friends a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas season. Thank you for your continued support in everything we do at Holy Family. We know we are blessed to be part of such a united community and we look forward to working alongside you all again in 2019 to make Holy Family an even better place.

RECEPTION & KS1 NATIVITY PLAYS

Our youngest children kicked off our Christmas season with a wonderful performance of 'The Nursery Rhyme Nativity'. In front of a packed audience of very proud parents and grandparents, they proved they are a class of sparkling stars. Considering most of them are still only 4 years old, it was a very special occasion. Following Reception Class' lead, Year 1 & Year 2 then put on a fantastic energetic performance of 'Prickly Hay' which really got the large audience rocking and rolling in the aisles. Congratulations to all the children and to the wonderful staff who worked so hard to ensure everything was ready for the stage.

KS2 ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

On Wednesday 19th December the church was packed for the KS2 Advent Carol Service. As always, this was a beautiful evening of prayer, reflection, liturgical dance, music and carols where the children led the congregation in reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who joined us for the service; we hope it has filled you all with the true spirit of the festive season.

OUR 2018 ADVENT CHARITY WORK

The generosity and support of the Holy Family community never ceases to amaze us. We are all acutely aware of the challenges faced by most people in the current economic climate and yet, our families repeatedly show compassion and thoughtfulness towards the less fortunate. Advent is one of the two major seasons of the liturgical year and is therefore a key time where we focus our charitable works as a school. This year, as always, you have provided incredible support for our chosen charities. **Mary's Meals**, who provide hot lunches for the poorest children in Africa, will receive a cheque for **£653** together with 14 backpacks of Christmas cheer. The cheque will be doubled thanks to government match funding meaning that **Holy Family will feed 94 children** with a hot lunch every day during 2019. Our fabulously colourful and fun Christmas jumper day raised **£215 for Save the Children** and we also supported Grass Roots in their work with the **Woking Homeless Project with the donation of a cheque for £136.85**. On top of all that. We also sent many boxes of food to the Chertsey Foodbank to support their work with needy families in our local community. May God bless you all for your kindness.

CHOIR BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO LOCAL PENSIONERS

On Monday 17th December the choir joined local elderly residents at the beginning of their special Xmas lunch in The Eileen Tozer Centre. The children sang beautifully and provided a wonderfully uplifting festive start to their special day. We received many grateful positive comments with one elderly lady stating "That was beautiful; it brought tears to my eyes. It is so lovely that the children spend this time with us" Thank you to Mrs James for all her hard work in preparing the choir so well this term.

XAVIER CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

Please take some time to read the attached newsletter from the Xavier CET. This gives a lovely overview of the wonderful things that are going on in our partner schools within the multi-academy trust. The benefits of our collaborative work grow stronger each month and I am sure these special partnerships will continue to benefit the staff, children and governors of Holy Family throughout 2019.

KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2019

Please remember that we start back on Monday 7th January 2019. Our first Mass of 2019 will be held on Friday 18th January at 9.15am.

SECTION 48 RE QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all parents who returned the recent RE questionnaire. The information provided will help us further improve our RE provision and Catholic life throughout 2019 and will provide us with one bank of evidence of how we work together in collaboration. We have identified some action points from your feedback and these will be swiftly implemented in the Spring term. When we receive notification of the Section 48 inspection date, we will share this with you. At that point the inspectors will re-issue this questionnaire so our apologies for having to complete it twice!

KS1 & KS2 SAT's INFORMATION EVENINGS FOR PARENTS

In preparation for the end of key stage assessments in May 2019, we will be holding an information evening for **parents of children in Year 2 & Year 6 on Tuesday 22nd January 2019**

ATTENDANCE FOR THIS TERM— We have made an excellent start towards reaching our challenging target of 97.4%+ for the academic year. Despite several bugs, viruses and other illnesses, our **total for this term is a fabulous 97.6%** Thank you to all parents for your continued support and to the children for being resilient and determined to come to school every day. A special word of congratulations goes to all our 100% attenders this term (87 children in total!) These children made of strong stuff received their certificates in assembly this morning. **Congratulations also to Year 5** who were our termly class attendance Champions with a tremendous total of **98.34%**

THE FLAME NEWSPAPER—SPECIAL ADVENT EDITION

Please take some time to read this wonderful publication, written and edited by our Year 6 liturgy leaders. There are lots of interesting articles within The Flame, including our December Holy Family Flame winners. The Flame is attached to this newsletter and also available at the back of the church.

HOLY FAMILY RECOGNISED FOR SPORT ONCE AGAIN!

We are very pleased to announce that we have recently been awarded the School Games Platinum Award for the second successive year...congratulations to all children, staff and parents on achieving this fantastic accolade.

PARENT STEERING GROUP—the next meeting will be held at **2pm on Friday 1st February 2019**

OUR SENSATIONAL PA COMMITTEE— The PA Committee are an incredible group of people...so good that I have given them a special supplementary page all of their own attached to this newsletter. Please do read it as it is amazing what they have achieved for the children this term.

HALL AND COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT—I am delighted to confirm that both projects will proceed and be completed during the next two terms. Early in the new year, St George's College grounds team will be on site to begin landscaping the garden whilst the outdoor decking leading from the hall will also begin to be installed. We are hopeful that the new audio/visual equipment will be installed in the hall over the Easter break. We still have some negotiating to do with contractors, work schedules and plans but everything points to an exciting project being undertaken during the first few months of 2019. **We are still seeking sponsorship or partnership from any local businesses or companies so please contact the school office if you bump into any willing donors at a Christmas party during the holidays!**

NEXT EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER...will be published on Friday 1st February although there will be a short welcome back letter sent out on Friday January 11th