

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the November newsletter. I hope that you and your children enjoyed some valuable time together and had a relaxing break over the half-term week.

Mrs M Murphy

Remembrance Sunday:

In the month of November we remember in our prayers those who died and gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War I and II. On Sunday 10 November services were held around the world at 11.00am. A wreath of poppies was laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall London and Veterans participated in the Cenotaph March Past.

On Monday 11 November we observed a 2 minute silence at 11am which was followed by the last post, played beautifully by John Cappello.



Parent Consultation Evenings:

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our parent consultations meetings before half term.

It was lovely to welcome so many parents over the two evenings and we look forward to



OPAL Update:

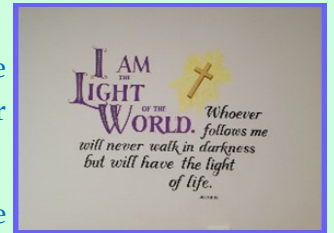
This month at lunchtime, the children have been given the freedom to play in either Key Stage playgrounds. New equipment will now be introduced in the coming weeks.

All Saints and All Souls:

In November we also take time to remember in our prayers our loved ones who have died.

The Church begins with the feast day of All Saints and All Souls; we ask God to grant their souls eternal rest and to comfort those who mourn.

In classes we have prayed for loved ones we remember by placing their names on our prayer tables.



Advent:

The season of Advent is fast approaching and to prepare for this special time of year, Father Dave visited the Year 5 pupils.



Together, they had great fun making purple Advent candles which will be given out on the first Sunday of Advent to the parishioners of St. Joseph's. If you attend mass at St Joseph's, your child is invited to hand out the candles, either on Saturday or Sunday this week.

Advent Stay and Pray:

We would like to invite parents to 'Stay and Pray' led by the Faith Ambassadors. This will be held on Friday mornings at 9.05am in the Prayer Room until Christmas.

Sporting Updates

Our Year 5 & 6 boys enjoyed their day at the Tag-Rugby event at Luton Rugby Club, playing lots of matches and developing their skills.



What a lovely afternoon for our KS1 athletes at the Year 1 and 2 Sportshall Athletics Event at Inspire. Lots of running, jumping and throwing was involved, with everyone having a great time - made even better when St. Joseph's finished in First place! So proud of everyone involved!



Lots of fun at the Year 5 and 6 dodgeball recently. Our skills developed as the afternoon progressed!



Our Year 6 netballers had their first match recently at Warden Hill Juniors, gaining in confidence throughout the game. The final score was 6-4 to Warden Hill, but we are all so proud of how well our girls played. Thank you to Warden Hill for hosting, and for their encouragement and support through the game. We can't wait for the next match!



Smiles all round at the end of an active morning, with our Year 3 and 4 Athletes finishing 2nd at the Sportshall Athletics event at Inspire. They will now be joining our Year 5 and 6 team at the Town final in January. Well done everyone.





Roll of Honour:

Well done to the children awarded Roll of Honour awards last half term:



Year 1

1MB – A Ayiku
1DO – E Eze
1SW – M Iteze

Year 2

2SC – Z Ekwueme
2DW – M Valiukevicius
2GK – M Cleary

Year 3

3MG – A Shah
3JS – C Nevin
3MM – K Brzostowski
3MH – E Juggins

Year 4

4CW – I Adamek
4BG – K Czeszak
4OR – P Fields
4PE – M Godwin-Ita

Year 5

5LB - A George
5CS – S Oparaocha
5AF – K Carroll
5CF – S Jayathunga

Year 6

6PC – A Felix-Roserie
6SW – N Godwin-Ita
6JC – J Onyechi
6MM – E Sese James



The Department for Education has issued guidance called 'Working together to improve attendance,' as research demonstrates that absence from school and learning hours lost have a negative impact on attainment and progress and can have a damaging effect on a child's life chances.

Attendance in October

| Class | Attendance | Class | Attendance | Class | Attendance | Class | Attendance |
|-------|------------|-------|------------|--------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Red | 94% | Blue | 97% | Yellow | 95% | | |
| 1DO | 95% | 1SW | 97% | 1MB | 95% | | |
| 2SC | 98% | 2DW | 95% | 2GK | 96% | | |
| 3MG | 98% | 3JS | 97% | 3MM | 95% | 3MH | 95% |
| 4CW | 94% | 4BG | 96% | 4PE | 97% | 4OR | 97% |
| 5LB | 99% | 5CF | 97% | 5AF | 92% | 5CS | 96% |
| 6PC | 96% | 6JC | 95% | 6SW | 98% | 6MM | 98% |
| | | | | | | Whole School | 96% |

Our school attendance target is 97%. Well done to 5LB who achieved 99% attendance during October. We cannot stress how important it is for children to come to school every day on time.



November 2024

Christmas Dinner:

An early announcement that the children's annual Christmas lunch will take place on **Thursday 19 December**.



Children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to universal free school meals and therefore do not need to pay for a Christmas dinner if they wish to have one.

A letter was sent home last Friday to children in Key Stage 1 and 2 who normally have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner so that we can ascertain numbers.

Children in KS2 will need to pay **£2.50** using the SCOPay cashless system; please contact the school office if you need any help with this.

This is always a lovely occasion for all the staff and children.

Year 2 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Carol Concert:

The **Year 2 Nativity** is on **Tuesday 10 December at 2.00pm** and the **Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concerts** led by Year 5 takes place on **Tuesday 17 December at 7.00pm** in St Joseph's Church.



Mrs Cladd, Mr Coaker, Year 2/Year 5 staff and children have already begun their preparations for these festive events. Please support the children with their readings and encourage them to learn the words to hymns and carols as they are sent home.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the performances.

Advent Services:

As we prepare for the joyous season of Advent we would like to invite parents and carers to join us for our Advent Services.

These will take place in the KS2 Hall as follows:

- ◆ **Tuesday 03 December**
 - 09.10 am Year 6
 - 10.10 am Year 4
 - 11.15 am Year 3
 - 13.45 pm Year 5



Caritas Love Christmas Campaign 2024:

Once again this year we are delighted to be supporting this worthy cause.



The **Caritas Love Christmas Campaign** supports families with young children, the elderly, the lonely and isolated and many others. We will be sending home a letter shortly outlining gifts you may be able to donate during the Advent Season.

Healthy Eating:

Chilli Enchiladas

Enchiladas originated in Mexico, where the practice of rolling tortillas around other food dates back at least to Aztec times. The people living in the lake region of the Valley of Mexico traditionally ate corn tortillas folded or rolled around small fish



Find your recipe [here](#)

PE Reminders:

As we enter the winter months can we please remind parents that children should bring a full outdoor PE kit (tracksuit/joggers) in any colour and a plastic bag to put their trainers in.



Also as with all aspects of PE including swimming, if children are in school and well enough to be outside during break and lunchtime they are expected to take part in this important aspect of the curriculum.