



## St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

**Newsletter – 19 November 2021**

**Autumn Term**

### **Anti Bullying Week – One Kind Word**

This week is anti-bullying week - a week where we think about bullying. The week allows us to recognise it as well as preventing it from happening. During the last few days, every child in our school have created anti-bullying posters and a competition has been held for the most interesting ones. The theme for this anti-bullying week is "One kind word" where our teachers ask us about kind words and when we would use them, such as "please", "thank you" or "Good Morning."

During this week we have a part of school time dedicated to Personal and Social Education (PSE) where we have class discussions about this subject. Although I have never experienced bullying myself and haven't seen personally happening in St Philomena's the research says 30% of children have been bullied in last year alone in UK, and that's why talking about it is very important.

The aim of anti-bullying week is to raise awareness about this problem and I believe we have definitely achieved that in our school.

Dominik, Head Boy

**ONE  
KIND  
WORD**

### **Bollywood Dancer Workshop**

The children in Reception Class were very lucky to have Niljo Roy visit them in school today. Niljo is a Bollywood Dancer and Choreographer ran a dance workshop for the children. This supported their learning about Diwali.

Bollywood dance is a vibrant colourful form of dance which incorporates a traditional style of Indian dance with modern influences, such as western disco dancing. Bollywood dance classes are fun for all ages and they are rapidly growing in popularity.

The classes are a great way to promote health, fitness and dance and help students to build confidence, self-esteem and gain knowledge about Indian art and culture.



### CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Some of the children have already asked whether or not they will be allowed to send cards this Christmas. While we make every effort to keep the children safe, we also want them to celebrate Christmas and all the magic it brings. With regard to Christmas Cards, we will need to ask that ALL CARDS must come through the School Post Box (not handed to individual Children and Staff). Children can bring the cards in with them (with the receivers name and year clearly marked on the envelope) and there will be specific times when they will be able to post them. The final date for posting will be **FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021**. **We cannot accept any cards after this date.**

Cards will be sorted by members of the school council and delivered to classrooms from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 onwards.

For our Christmas Charity Fundraising we will once again be selling St Philomena's postage stamps. We charge 5p per stamp so for example, if your child chooses to send 20 cards to their friends, the outlay for stamps will be £1.00. Any additional donations will be passed directly onto the charity. All money raised will go toward Crisis at Christmas. An individual would get:

A warm welcome and good company

Three nutritious hot meals  
(including Christmas dinner)

A bed for the night if needed

A chance to shower and get clean clothes

A health check and treatment from a doctor, optician  
and dentist

Expert help with mental and addiction problems

Advice on housing, employment and benefits

Stamps should be paid for online and will be sent home in Children's book bags.

**PLEASE NOTE: CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE TO PURCHASE STAMPS TO USE THE SCHOOL POSTAL SYSTEM**

### Cashless Payment System

It was our first "Cashless" week and although we did have a few glitches most feedback assured us that we have a really easy payment system to use and that making payments was much easier.



We would be very grateful if you could all register so that you have access to all of our Christmas events and let the office know if you have any queries or concerns.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE – Tickets Will Be On Sale From Monday 21.11.21 (Please Pay Online)

All children, parents, carers and friends are invited to purchase raffle tickets for our Christmas Hampers that will be on display in the school entrance area.

Tickets are £1 per strip. Please make payment online and raffle tickets will be sent home in your child's book bag.

Winners will be drawn on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

All funds raised will go into School Fund - which is spent on enhancing school life for the pupils in many different ways.

Thank you for your support.



### Rock Steady

Rock Steady will be holding a concert on Thursday 16 December 2021. Parents / Carers will only be able to watch their child's band perform rather than the whole concert. Letters will be emailed home with your time slot.



## The Young Minds Wellbeing Advent Calendar

Christmas is a fun and exciting time, but for some, it can leave them feeling anxious, lonely or stressed. For some pupils and their families, this time of year will be very difficult, especially for those who have experienced trauma or bereavement. We've created a Wellbeing Advent Calendar to help support staff and pupils throughout December. Each week, teachers will put a regular time slot aside to try the different 5 minute activity to help boost wellbeing and look after our mental health in the lead up to the holidays.

**W/E 26.11.21**

### **1 Positive paper chains**

Each pupil will be given a strip of paper for them to write a positive message. All the strips will be connected in a paper chain and displayed around the classroom

**W/E 03.12.21**

### **2 The gift of giving**

Children will be encouraged to share an act of kindness with someone in school. It could be a kind word, a compliment, a smile. They will be encouraged to think about how this made them feel.

**W/E 10.12.21**

### **3 Have a giggle**

The children will have a go at laughter yoga. They will sit in a circle and laugh at everything and anything. What may start as a fake laugh will soon turn into a genuine free-flow of class happiness.

**W/E 17.12.21**

### **4 Christmas wish list**

The children will get ready for Christmas with a Christmas wish list for the world. They will write down all the things that would make the world a better place for everyone.

We will let you know how it goes!

## **CHRISTMAS !!!**

We sent detailed arrangements for Christmas by letter this week. Please see the summary of important dates below:



### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Monday 15.11.21**

Christmas stamps sold

**Monday 22.11.21**

Christmas Hamper Raffle Tickets sold



**Thursday 2.12.21**

The "Reluctant Dragon" panto performance /live Streaming

**Thursday 9.12.21**

Last day for Year 1 parents to order tickets for Nativity

**Friday 10.12.21**

Last day that Christmas Cards can be posted  
KS2 recording their Carol Concert

Last day for Reception parents to order tickets for Nativity performance

**Monday 13.12.21**

Bring in additional decorations for party hats and a glue stick

Last day for Year 2 parents to order tickets for Nativity

KS1 Nativity for Year Parents at 2.00pm

**Tuesday 14.12.21**

Christmas Cards distributed

Reception Nativity Performance for parents at 10.00am

Carols and Mince Pies in the playground from 3.10pm

**Wednesday 15.12.21**

KS1 Nativity for Year 2 Parents at 2.00pm

**Thursday 16.12.21**

Christmas Lunch Christmas jumper Day

Class parties – children will need individual plates of Party food

Christmas Hamper Raffle winners drawn



## Inter-Class Attendance Race

The attendance rates have not been affected by any absence due to Covid-19 (isolation/symptoms or testing).

**Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021:**

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	88	1
Year 1	100	2
Year 2	99	1
Year 3	99	4
Year 4	96	2
Year 5	97	3
Year 6	99	3

Year 1 are the winners this week with 100% attendance. Well done - each child will get a sticker next week!

## League Table

Year	No. of Wins
Reception	2
Year 1	3
Year 2	2
Year 3	1
Year 4	1
Year 5	1
Year 6	2

**Weeks in competition: 12 (full weeks only)**

**OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 96.8%**



## ADVANCE NOTICE REGARDING GREEN ROOM CLUB CLOSURE

Our Green Room Club (GRC) After School Childcare Facility

**WILL NOT BE OPEN**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (3.20-5.45pm)**

And

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (3.20-5.45pm)**

due to staff training.

*We have to use some INSET days in order to facilitate a 2 week half term in October. As a result, our vital staff training (for example, with regard to Safeguarding) needs to be carried out as twilight sessions after the normal school day.*

Please make alternate provision should you require after school care on that day.

**We apologise for any inconvenience caused.**

Breakfast Club will be open as usual.

## Term Dates

### **Autumn Term 2021:**

First day of term      Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Half-term                18.10.21 – 29.10.21  
Last day of term        Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December '21

### **Spring Term 2022:**

First day of term        Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Half-term                14.02.22 – 18.02.22  
Last day of term        Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

*(Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022)*

### **Summer Term 2022:**

First day of term        Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
**Bank Holiday**        **02.05.22**  
Half-term                30.05.22 – 03.06.22  
Last day of term        Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022  
**\*Staff Training Day**    **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**  
                                     **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Gemma Eves  
Deputy Head Teacher

