



St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

Newsletter – 3 November 2023 Autumn Term

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a wonderful half term break and I have loved catching up with so many of the children about the activities or holidays they enjoyed !

All Saints Day – Holyday of Obligation

The children were, as always, beautifully behaved when they attended Mass with the congregation at Our Lady of the Crays on Wednesday morning. They didn't complain about walking down there in the dreadful weather either !

Fr. Patrick, the visiting priest who celebrated the Mass, commented on the reverence shown by the children and their knowledge of the Gospel message.

Uniform Reminders

As we are now well into Autumn, a gentle reminder that summer dresses should now be replaced with our winter uniform. If you are considering purchasing a new winter coat for school, please bear in mind that it **must** be **plain** dark blue or black. I am aware that new coats can be expensive but we have many spare winter coats here at school in good condition that we would love to distribute. Please do ask at the school office, all enquiries will be dealt with sensitively and discreetly.

Thank you so much !

Huge thanks for all the support we receive from parents for our PTA fundraising events. I am delighted that the fundraising efforts of our school community have enabled us to replace the laptops that we use for our Computing curriculum and many other areas of curriculum support. You will appreciate that this is no small investment and the purchase of 30 new (robust and functional) laptops was funded as follows :-

£ 7500 from the PTA

£ 2500 from School Fund

£ 2000 from Devolved Formula Capital (a ring-fenced funding stream received from the government)

Many of our old laptops are failing but we will, of course, retain those that are still working to facilitate additional curriculum support.

Being able to update this valuable resource will benefit **ALL** of the children in our school and without your support and the amazing hard work of our PTA, this couldn't happen !

Quiz Night

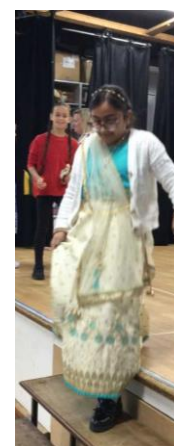
Quiz night was a great success: it was fantastic to see such wonderful support for this event. Together we managed to raise an impressive £511, which is a testament to the incredible generosity and community spirit of our school. This contribution will have a substantial impact, directly benefiting our children by supporting additional extracurricular activities and covering essential coach travel expenses. Thank you for being a part of this special evening and for making it such a success.

Christmas Fair

Christmas fair Saturday 2nd December 1-3pm. We are looking for independent stall holders, so if any small businesses would like to hold a stall at the fair to contact the school office for us to pass details on to Mrs Miller. The Christmas fair is to be run by parents this year. Each year group will come up with their own stall idea (and let Mrs Miller know) the stall will be run by volunteers from their class. The stall which makes the most money will win a prize for their class. Staff will be running Tombola, golden boxes and Christmas crackers stall. Look forward to your ideas!

Well Done

Well done to Chloe (year 4) she has completed the 'bearpee' challenge this month to raise money for children in need. So far she has raised £60.



Cultural Day

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, today the school enjoyed a cultural dress day. It was so lovely to see the diverse range of cultural backgrounds that make up our St Philomena's community. The children were very enthusiastic and loved sharing their heritage with the school during assembly this morning. Next week, we will continue to celebrate Black History Month when the children will have the opportunity to participate in a Steel Pan Workshop.

Year 1 also enjoyed learning about Scottish culture with our chair of governors, and learnt to make Scottish shortbread.

PTA Events

Own clothes day in exchange for chocolate for the Christmas Fair on Friday 17 November.

Own clothes Day -Friday 24 November in exchange for non alcohol / alcohol contribution for the Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair – Saturday 2nd December

Break the Rules Day – Change of date now on Tuesday 5 December

School Disco – Thursday 14 December



Nativity Dates

Yr 1 and Yr 2 Friday 8 December

Reception Thursday 14 December

Class Assembly Dates

Year 3 Thursday 16 November

Year 4 Friday 1 December

Year 5 Friday 24 November

Year 6 Friday 17 November

Important Dates

Reception Mass – Our Lady of the Cray

Thursday 23 November

Remembrance Assembly, School Hall

Thursday 9 November - **All are welcome**

9.45am

Carol Concert – Our Lady of the Cray

Monday 18 December

Attendance Race 2023- 2024

Attendance and Lateness for the week beginning 9th October 2023 :

Class	Attendance (%)	Lates (occasions)
Reception	98	4
Year 1	98	0
Year 2	96	0
Year 3	93	0
Year 4	98	0
Year 5	99	0
Year 6	98	0

Year 5 have won this week, their first win of the year. Well done !

League Table

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

Weeks in competition: 5 (full weeks only)

OVERALL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WEEK 97.1%



School Fund Contribution



We ask that each family contributes to a fund which helps to subsidise outings, cover the cost of cooking ingredients and pay for various other items needed to provide enrichment activities for your child. Enrichment of the curriculum is a strength here and your family contribution to the school fund will be put to very good use. The recommended amount is **£5 per family per term**, and this can be paid online (under products, online shop). Your contributions are very much appreciated.

TERM DATES

ACADEMIC YEARS 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2023:

Last day of term Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024:

INSET DAY Wednesday 3rd January

2024

First day of term Thursday 4th January 2024

Half-term 12.02.24 – 16.02.24

Last day of term Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024:

First day of term Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half-term 27.05.24 – 31.05.2024

Last day of term Friday 19th July 2024

INSET DAYS Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th July 2024

Have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Veronica Maher

