



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

'Growing together through Christ'

Headteacher: Mrs Cindy Stocking

Charlton Lane,
Midsomer Norton,
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No. 12, 30th November 2018

Dear Parents,

CHRISTMAS FAIR: A note from the PTA: It was great to see so many people enjoying the Christmas Fair last Friday evening. Thanks to those who came along, donated prizes, and volunteered their time to make the event a success. The Christmas Fair, combined with the sale of the children's personalised cards, mugs, gift tags, etc. raised over £800. Thanks again for your help and support. We look forward to providing more fun events for the children in the New Year.

Bike rack: We are delighted to announce we now have a bike rack as well as a scooter pod! The rack is on the path round to the infant playground, in the space behind Phoenix Classroom. This will be particularly useful in the summer when many of you accompany your children to school on their bikes. We would like to thank Mr Mattick for the donation of the bike rack and Mr Maundrill for securing it safely.

Advent Mass: On Wednesday this week, we celebrated Mass to mark the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and the First Sunday of Advent (2nd December). We lit our first Advent candle and started our preparations for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It was lovely to be joined by several parents who came to share this special time with the children – everyone is welcome to come and share all whole school masses held.

Griffin Class Assembly: On Thursday, Griffin Class shared their learning of their Greek topic during assembly. They acted out the gruesome Creation myth and told us lots about the Olympics, art, Gods and Goddesses and even politics. At the end, Benjy and Sarah confidently presented their PowerPoints about Dionysus and Tyche.



Forest School: This week we have had some horrible weather. Dragon Class still braved the elements to have a short session outside on Tuesday. They were hunting around the school grounds for different objects to build up an alphabet of things outside. There were some very creative answers! Because it was so wet though, we didn't stay outside for long. Hopefully the weather will be better next week!

Dragon Class topic work: This week Dragon Class learnt about the process of mummification as part of their Ancient Egyptian work. They explored the gruesome aspects of it and found it fascinating. They had a really fun start as they got to work in groups to turn someone into a mummy! Don't worry, they only used toilet paper to do it so no one was harmed!



Sports update: Last Friday, the football team played against Welton Primary School. It was an amazing game even though it was cold and seeing the ball was tricky in the poor light. The final score was 8-1 to St Ben's – Hooray! By Caelan and Harry W.

On Wednesday this week, we went to the MSN Games Association swimming gala. It was really fun and our team did brilliantly. We were 4th overall and three people carried away medals. Benjy won gold in Boys' 25m breast stroke, Harry M won bronze in Boys' 25m backstroke and Harry W won silver in Boys' 50m freestyle and bronze in Boys' 25m butterfly. Ms Mattick was very proud of us, particularly in the way we supported each other. Well done to Kezia for competing against boys when there was a mix up at the start line – and beating two of them! By Kezia and Naomi.

Leaders in Faith: This week, our chaplaincy team have been very busy. They put up our display in the hall for Advent and decorated the table with the Advent wreath and candles. Then on Friday, they went to Clifton Cathedral to celebrate the commissioning of all the new members of chaplaincy teams around the Diocese. The children were all wonderfully well behaved and we were very proud of them. The team has also written their own Action Plan for chaplaincy and the Acts of Kindness they are going to lead the school in over the

coming year as we follow the Bishop's wishes for the Year of Prayer. We will also be sharing several events with our Camino Partnership schools.

Christmas Tree: Our Christmas tree will be put up this weekend and the children are invited to make a decoration to hang on the tree. The decorations need to be marked with the child's name and class so they can be returned at the end of term to hang up at home. We will also award a prize for each Key Stage for a decoration showing the child's creativity and work. Thank you to Mr Paines and ActivEd for donating the tree.

Advent Food Bank collection: This year we will be collecting tins, jars, packets and boxes of food to donate to our local foodbank again. If each child can bring one item each week for the last three weeks of term we will have a substantial amount of food to donate. If we could focus on general food items for the first two weeks and then bring something 'Christmassy' on the last week of term that would be wonderful. Thank you as always for your generosity.

Clothes: We have a very large box and pile of lost clothing held at the school office. This include coats, jumpers, shoes – all sorts! And none of it is named! If you have lost any items, please ask at the office to hunt through the pile. Could you also check that your child's clothing, shoes etc. is all named and check regularly that the name is still visible as they do fade over time. All named clothing that is found is returned to the child's classroom immediately. We will hold this clothing for another week and then add it to our clothing bank. Thank you.

Staff Changes: This week we have been very busy interviewing for new class support staff and a teacher to cover Imp Class while Miss Paisey is on maternity leave. We are delighted to have secured Mrs Patricia Redmond who is a very experienced TA and HLTA with a degree in education who will be working in Pegasus Class Monday to Thursday mornings, organising and delivering support for children with English as an Additional Language and children requiring support around Speech and Language. Mrs Redmond will also provide management time cover in Griffins and Phoenix Class on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Kyleigh Callow, another very experienced lady, will be teaching Imp Class while Miss Paisey is on maternity leave. Mrs Callow has taught in all years groups across the primary age range and brings a wealth of experience and creativity to our school team. We are looking forward to welcoming both these ladies to the St Benedict's family in January. We extend our thanks to Mr Curtis who leaves us today and wish him all the best in his new venture in retail.

C. Stockling

And all St Benedict's Staff ☺

Reminders:

Please ensure all haircuts / styles are in keeping with school uniform policy.

Please also ensure that children bringing packed lunch have a healthy, balanced meal and that they are not bringing in packets of sweets for their lunch. A small biscuit or snack bar is okay but bags of haribo etc. are not appropriate. Thank you

Stars of the Week: Written by Sadie and Rosie (Y5)

Phoenix: Olivia, Naomi, Kezia, Rowan Harry and Dawid for their excellent team work in the swimming gala. Lola for always showing kindness to others.

Griffin: Whole Class for their wonderful assembly and Benjy for his excellent presentation.

Dragon: Max, Phoebe, Ruby and Maddy for good team work around mumification.

Pegasus: Kacper for working so hard on his art. Antoni for doing extra homework based on his art.

Unicorn: Grace for her growing confidence. Tommy for his great improvement in handwriting.

Sprite: Liliane and Patrick for their lovely neat gaps between calculations in maths.

Imp: Elora for always being kind and Freddie for focussing so hard in our play.

Events

Tuesday 11 th December	Nativity to Parents	9.30 am
Wednesday 12 th December	Nativity to Parents	6.00 pm
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children	
Tuesday 18 th December	Rainbow Theatre performance	
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch	
Wednesday 19 th December	Carol Service @ Stratton on the Fosse	6.30 pm
Friday 21 st December	Autumn Term ends	

Masses and Assemblies

Wednesday 5 th December	Reconciliation Service (all welcome)	11.30 am
Thursday 6 th December	Dragon Class Assembly	11.40 am
Thursday 13 th December	Phoenix Class Assembly	11.40 am
Wednesday 19 th December	Whole School Mass (all welcome)	11.15 am

Clubs for this term:***Lunchtime:***

Monday –
Tuesday – Leaders in Faith (KS2) 12.15
Wed/Thurs – Recorders 12.15

After school

Monday – Robotics to 4.30
Tuesday –
Wed – Mr Paines, Y1,2,3 Football to 4.30
Thurs – Christmas Band to 4 pm
Friday – Mr Paines Y4,5,6 Football to 4.30