



St Clare's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 21st December 2023

Play, learn and grow together with Christ

St Clare's is a Christ-centred family where everyone is valued and respected. We learn and grow, whilst strengthening our relationship with God and one another. Together in His love, we can achieve our full potential.

Mrs Charnley's Message



In today's world we so often lose the true meaning of Christmas beneath the wrappings and trappings of the preparations. We forget that Jesus Christ is our true pathway to happiness and take instead, the easier route which can demand less of us.

Therefore, in those special moments when we have the opportunity to stop and leave our daily toil behind. We are reminded that God calls each of us to think beyond ourselves, to think only with a kind heart. I am sure like me; you were all moved by the Advent Service and the Nativity plays over the last weeks. Thank you, children and staff, and thank you to all families who shared these special moments. We are all truly blessed to be part of our community that recognises this. What better way to prepare for Christmas than to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. It is a peaceful way to get our hearts ready and one we know the children in Elder, Cherry and Oak classes have valued. Thank you to Fr John Mark and Fr Stephen for finding the time for us this week.

Well done children in Beech, Pine and Hazel making cards for Brigeen and Rita to share with those who will be hospital over Christmas is a real act of love and kindness.

My thanks have to go to our team in the kitchen. Wednesday saw them prepare Christmas dinner for 208 children. It truly was a team effort with all the staff pulling together to serve the children and make sure that they enjoyed such a delicious dinner. Thank you everyone.

What a first term this has been and what a delight to see all our children settle and develop. Staff have worked so hard to encourage the children to achieve the very best, something I know you value as the way you have recognised this with your generosity in giving them presents. They would like me to thank you all on their behalf.

Fourth Week in Advent: Love

Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." blessed are you among women. But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold your cousin Elizabeth, she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth

month with her who is called barren: Because no word shall be impossible with God.

And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.

Christmas is always such a magical time for families and we wish you the very best for the holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

God Bless,

Mrs Charnley and the Staff of Saint Clare's.

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." — Henry Ford

Faith

Here is our weekly mission - a small way of putting into practice the gospel values. We believe we are called to live our lives differently because of what we have experienced and prayed about. What we offer as the 'mission' is a suggestion of how we can all do just that.



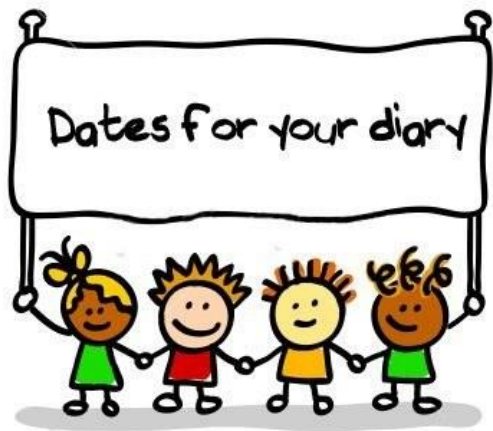
Christmas Lunch / Party Day

There was a real buzz in school yesterday for our annual Christmas Lunch / Party day. The children put on their best party clothes & party hats, pulled crackers and enjoyed some Christmas music during lunch. They continued the fun in class with some party games and dancing.





Dates for your Diary



Monday 8th January 2024 - Return to school.

Thursday 11th January 2024 - Meet the teacher (5pm)

After School Activity Clubs



Parents can now book after school activity clubs for next term on Arbor. There will be Dance Club, KS2 Spanish, Multisport and Lego starting on the week commencing 15th January 2023. KS2 Archery club will not be on Arbor as letters were sent out to the children instead. There are still some places available for the archery club for any KS2 children who are interested.

All places are given on a first come first served basis.

World Faith Week



Next term as part of our R.E. Curriculum we will be focusing on the religion of Islam. We will also be taking part in World Faith Week which commences on 29th January 2024. We are hoping that some of our Muslim parents could come in and speak to the children about their faith. If this is something that you think you would be interested in doing then please leave your name with Miss Dedat in the Office.

PTFA



Thank you to everyone who purchased something from the tuck shop yesterday. All the money raised will go back into the school. Thank you to Mrs. Patel & Mrs. Ali who did a fantastic job of organising it & for everyone who braved yesterday's weather to make it happen.

Please keep a look out for our next meeting date.

Pray for Peace – Play for Peace



Thank You to everyone who donated to our Pray for Peace - Play for Peace event that was put together by our student council. We raised a great amount which will go towards helping the innocent children affected by the Israel and Occupied Palestinian conflict. You can still donate directly to CAFOD via the link below.

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal>.

Please continue to remember all those around the world who are affected by war in your prayers.

Attendance



The whole school's attendance this week was 95.59%.

Well done to Year 2 (Beech), Your class had the highest attendance this week with 99.4%!

ABSENCE REPORTING!

If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason then please call the school office and speak to a member of staff, leave a voicemail, send an email or a message via Arbor to the school. This must be done before the start of the school day which is 8:55am. You must call in everyday that your child is absent.

Online Safety



At the end of each month we will be sending out an Online Safety Newsletter. We have also added a section to the website under 'Parents' which we would encourage you to take a look at, this includes a booklet to help support with parental controls. With Christmas comes a wealth of new technology for children to enjoy. Our ICT consultant has found that by using Google Family you can help to keep your child safe online. <https://familylink.google.com/>

Family Link gives you access to manage your child's account and data settings. As a parent, you can help change or reset your child's password if they forget it, edit their personal information or even delete their account if you feel necessary. You can also use the Google Family Link is a parental controls app that helps you keep your family safer online.

Piano/ Keyboard & Voice Lessons



There are still places available for parents who want to book their child in for Piano / Keyboard and Voice lessons with Mrs. Calman. The Parental Direct Payment scheme allows parents to pay the Music Service directly for instrumental and vocal tuition. The lessons are delivered in school, Individually. Please see the email that was sent to parents last week with instructions on how to book. There are currently only a limited number of places left to book!

School Admissions



School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery* you can now apply for their primary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

As we are a faith school you will also need to complete a supplementary form that you will find on the last page of our admissions policy that you will find on our school website.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 15 January 2024.

PARKING!



I understand that we all have to get to drop off our children on our way to work and how busy that can be with the traffic at that time. I also know that by parking on a double yellow line on the road outside the school is illegal and dangerous for the children—particularly if it is right in front of the gates to the school or parish carpark. Please be aware that we have been asked by the police to pass on any car number plate of anyone doing so. Think carefully about all the children coming to school and the safety of everyone. As reception children become more familiar with the routines and our drop-and-go system I am sure things will ease. Please use the one-way route when using the drop-and-go system. Some of the parking spaces are reserved for hospital staff, please be mindful that you are not blocking them in. I really appreciate your help and support in this matter.