



# I am a Disciple for you Jesus



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School

Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6BN

Head Teacher: Mrs R A Girling

Autumn Term 2023

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Newsletter 13

Web-site: [www.holysoulbham.school](http://www.holysoulbham.school)

Email - [enquiry@holysoulbham.school](mailto:enquiry@holysoulbham.school)

Twitter -



@SoulsSchool

Year 4: Ethan & Maddison

Year 5: Rohan & Jack

Year 6: Aidan & Martina

Staff member: The Catering staff at Archbishop Ilsley,  
Year 3: Isabel & Esme

Year 2: Mia & Joshua

Year 1: Ariana & Archie

Reception: Seraya

Dear Parents, carers and children,

Our Advent journey has started superbly as we blessed our Advent Wreath, Y6 celebrated Class Mass with Father Marco, Year 4 and Year 5 attended Parish Mass and had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our thanks to Canon Jonathan and Father Marco for their wonderful guidance and support.

On Thursday we were joined by our Reception parents as we enjoyed our first performance of the season "Wrigley Nativity" I thank our youngest children for their excellent reading, acting, singing and dancing skills! What a treat it was and there was a lot of wriggling by the cast and the audience! Our audience were brilliant and we look forward to more performances next week. I always enjoy watching the grown-ups sing along! Our thanks to our Reception staff for preparing the children so superbly.

## The Season of Advent



This Sunday we celebrate the **Second Sunday of Advent**. The second candle on the wreath to be lit is **purple**. This is for the second Sunday in Advent and symbolises **faith**. Also called the Bethlehem Candle it reminds us of the journey Mary and Joseph travelled.

Let us pray.... for the gift of faith in our hearts and in our lives.

God bless Mrs Girling



# To bring good news, to shine for you.



Sacred Heart and Holy Souls Church - PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN ON THE WEBSITE

MASS TIMES - Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00pm Sunday Masses 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00pm.

## Year 6 Home and Away residential

29<sup>th</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December

A wonderful time was had by all last week as Year 6 took part in their residential here at Holy Souls and at Whitemoor Lakes in Staffordshire.

Activities included orienteering, balloon art, Forest School, a leap of faith, a cinema afternoon, a Christmas Carol concert around the campfire, origami, a trek to the North Pole, problem solving, team building, nightline- the list is endless!

The children's engagement, enthusiasm and effort was amazing and, as always, behaviour and manners were impeccable. I have spoken to Whitemoor Lakes and they told me "Your children were exemplary. Please let them come again!" Well done children and thank you for being such good ambassadors for our school.

Thank you to all the staff involved for giving so generously of your time and for all your hard work to ensure that all the children were kept safe and had truly memorable experiences which will stay with them forever.



## Thank you Archbishop Ilsley

A huge thank you to Ms. Duncombe from our MAC Central Team, Julie and the catering staff, Mr Hicks the Business Manager and Mr Clinton for feeding 202 pupils today! As you know we had an emergency in our kitchen leaving us unable to provide a hot dinner on site. Archbishop Ilsley stepped in and the children with a lovely dinner and a great experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and as I was told "It was the best pizza ever!" Thanks to the staff here at school who assisted in making sure all the children were fed and safe.

We are most grateful to Archbishop Ilsley and as our feeder school (no pun intended) it shows how well we work together and as part of our wonderful St Teresa of Calcutta MAC.

*A real sign of Saint Teresa's words in action*

*"Together we can do great things."*

## A message from Canon Jonathan and Father Marco

### BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI & CHRISTMAS CRIBS

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the first Christmas Crib being erected by St Francis. On **Sunday 17th December** please bring the figure of the child Jesus or your family crib to be blessed at Mass.

A Christmas Crib should be part of every Catholic home at Christmas. Home is a holy place where Christ dwells.

We really hope to see you at one of our Parish Masses with your Bambinelli.

### MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday Masses 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00pm.



**Sunday 17th December**

## This week in school...

We held our last full Governing body meeting of the calendar year and were delighted to be joined by our School Improvement Partner Mr Ben Taylor. Our Governing body work tirelessly to ensure the very best for our children. We are blessed to have them and grateful for the time they give voluntarily to support our community. Thank you all very much.

## PARKING

We were disappointed to see so many cars parking outside of school during the rainy weather. It was unsafe and a risk to the safety of us all. Please be aware that if parking tickets are issued the matter will not be dealt with in school. Thank you to those who continue to park in the designated car parks keeping us safe.

## Clubs

Dance, Dodgeball and Basketball Clubs will resume week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Thank you to the staff and external Coaches who provide such great extra curricular opportunities.

## RAFFLE

Thank you for your generosity with our raffle. We will continue to sell tickets in class and when it has stopped raining we will sell then on the playground at the end of the school day.

20 pence per ticket

£1:00 per strip

## SOUL SINGERS

We are fortunate to have a very enthusiastic and entertaining school choir. The Soul Singers meet weekly with Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Barresi and this week they have entertained our Reception parents and visited Victoria Lodge. They performed traditional carols and fun Christmas songs. Children we are so very proud of you and we thank our staff for this wonderful opportunity.

Next week you can watch our Soul Singers via livestream in our annual St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Concert live from Saint Chad's Cathedral. We are travelling with our friends from Archbishop Ilsley and all the children back in school will be watching the live stream. Please follow the link below. It starts at 1:30pm.

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham>

Please do join us for this wonderful celebration of liturgical word and song.

### Attendance Matters



This week Mr. Mills and Mrs. Kielstra attended the first St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Attendance Conference. Led by Mr. Taylor the schools in our MAC discussed ways we can help each other improve attendance through sharing ideas and resources.

OVERALL ATTENDANCE:

**91%**

CLASS	%	CLASS	%

RG	95%	4WM	91%
IWK	87%	4F	93%
IJ	96%	5M	95%
2T	91%	5J	96%
2CT	95%	6SC	87%
3M	92%	6PM	90%
3W	83%		

*This week's winner is 5J ~ enjoy your extra PE time with Coach Dylan*

### Gifts from God Celebration Assembly

RG	Jessica	4WM	Lilly May
IWK	Samuel	4F	Teddy
IJ	Maya	5M	Isabelle
2T	Freddie	5J	Liam
2CT	Victor	6SC	Niamh
3M	Reggie	6PM	Amelie
3W	Sophia	HAPPY GOLDEN TIME EVERYONE!	
Leaders for Learning don't forget to collect your pencil from Mrs. Gurling!			

### *Sports Stars of the Week*



Reception - Maksymilian

KS1 - Philly

KS2 - Edward



RG	Dolcie	4WM	Sajid
IWK	Faith	4F	Sofia
IJ	Arlo	5M	Georgina
2T	Cameron	5J	Artur
2CT	Isabelle	6SC	Sienna
3M	Alan	6PM	Olaf
3W	Andrew	Reading is fun!	



Thank you for hearing your child read and completing your child's Reading Record every evening.



## **Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots**



Most coins collected this week

2TC	Evelyn	5J	Anjola
2T	Ara	5M	Isabel
3W	Ryon	6SC	Oskar
3M	Jeffrey	6PM	Jordan
4WM	Ion	4F	Aimy
Well done trophy winners!			

Each week we are presenting a trophy to our TT Rockstar and Numbots winners. This trophy will sit proudly for the week on their desk and remind them of their wonderful achievement. Each week the trophy will be presented to the class winner.



### ***SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING***

Please remember that our playground is a safe place for everyone. Please speak to others and treat others as you would like to be treated. We are a community and support one other.

### **DREAM TEAM BED FUND**

Birmingham City Council (BCC) has partnered with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) supported by Barnardo's to ring-fence some of the Round 4 Household Support Fund money to provide support to families suffering from Bed Poverty. This funding is currently available until 31st

March 2024.

Families who are eligible for this referral are described as:

- Parent sleeping on chair, sofa, or floor to give up the bed for their child
- Child(ren) sharing bed with parents or siblings
- Child(ren) sleeping on something other than a bed - floor, chair, sofa, bath, car seat etc.
- Child's bed broken and family have been unable to repair or replace in the last 6-12 months
- Child's bed and/or bedding mouldy or damp
- Child sleeping in a bed which is inappropriate for their age range - such as still sleeping in a cot or toddler bed due to inability to purchase a single bed.

If this applies to you and you feel you could benefit from funding for this, please contact Mrs Brown at the office who can assist you in making this referral.

### [A parent's guide to TikTok challenges and trends | Kidslox](#)

TikTok challenges are an ever changing minefield for parents. From fun and hilarious through to dangerous and inappropriate. How should we react to them?

A reminder:

TikTok requires its users to be at least 13 years old.



<https://kidslox.com/guide-to/tiktok-challenges/>

**INFORMATION RECEIVED:**

**Important Measles/MMR Update from Birmingham Public Health**



Measles cases have been confirmed locally in Birmingham. Measles outbreaks can happen when not enough children have been vaccinated.

Education settings are asked to pass the below information to parents and encourage them to check that their child has been vaccinated. Parents can check the personal child health record (the Red Book) or if this doesn't help, speak to their GP surgery. Parents can contact their GP surgery to catch their child up, at any age, or indeed, for themselves.

## About measles

Measles is highly infectious (it can spread easily from person to person). While most people recover completely within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with **two doses of MMR** is the only way to give people maximum protection.

The **first signs of measles** are:

- high temperature
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Measles can cause complications, especially in certain at-risk groups that include babies and small children, pregnant women and people with weak immunity.

## Further important information

### The MMR vaccine

If your child has not received **two doses of MMR vaccination** as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child now. If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can contact your GP to check.

The MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against measles as it is:

- effective
- safe and
- free of charge

The vaccine provides effective protection against three diseases – measles, mumps and rubella. The first dose of MMR is given soon after the first birthday. A second dose is normally given before school entry. However, you can have the MMR vaccine at any age. If either you or your child are not fully protected against measles (two doses of MMR), you can contact your GP surgery to arrange vaccination. It is never too late to get vaccinated. Two doses of MMR are required to produce satisfactory protection against measles, mumps and rubella. If your family avoids pork, a MMR vaccine is available that does not contain any pork products.

This is especially important when measles is circulating because any child or adult who has not had **at least one dose of MMR** and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be **excluded from nursery, school or work for 21 days and stay at home**.

## What to do if you think your child has measles

If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your GP. You must contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles and not attend the surgery unless you are asked to. The doctor will make special arrangements to see your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

People with measles will remain infectious, and so be able to pass on the disease to others **for 4 days after the start of the rash**. Therefore, it is important that anyone with measles stays away from nursery, school, group activities, gatherings or anywhere with people outside of the household during that time.

Further information on the MMR vaccine can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

**If your setting needs any further support or resources to have this conversation, or if you have any further questions, please email [HPTeam@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:HPTeam@birmingham.gov.uk).**