



Holy Souls Newsletter



Holy Souls School, Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6BN

Headteacher: Mrs R A Girling

Autumn Term 2024 – Friday 13th December 2024 – Newsletter 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week here in school as Walk with Jesus on Our Advent journey. We have enjoyed retelling the Birth of Our Lord in so many ways.

Our Year 3 enrolment Mass for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Sunday was the perfect way to light the second candle and think about the meaning of Love. I was delighted to be approached by so many parishioners who shared just how much they enjoyed the celebration. “I have never heard such a wonderful choir and seen such a lovely children’s Mass.” Such kind words and my thanks to the children families, staff, musicians, choir and Canon Jonathan for making it so special.

This Sunday at all Masses there will be boundless **JOY** as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. We are asked to celebrate by wearing pink – as we light the pink candle. Please do bring your baby Jesus crib figure as the blessing of the Bambinelli will be taking place at all Masses.

Reception shared their retelling of the Nativity in a wonderful version of **Simply the Nativity** and as the youngest children in school we were amazed that everyone had a speaking part and joined in the singing and dancing so joyfully!

Year 1 shared **Cock – a - Doodle Christmas** and piglets looking for curly tails, sheep wanting leg warmers and cockerels who danced with delight led us all with great gusto in your super singing.

Year 2 and 3 performed **Super Star** and each one of you were super stars! Year 4 and their **Stable Boy** told us about the coming of Our Lord and the calling of Simon the Disciple as a Fisher of Men. Y4 you were superb! The acting, singing, dancing and enthusiasm was contagious and certainly made us think and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

We are blessed to have such gifted and talented children and my thanks to all the staff for their hard work and support in preparing the children.

We were delighted to welcome so many parents, carers, grandparents, and friends to join our celebrations. I always enjoy watching you sing a-long! I thank you all for your excellent participation and generosity. I think we would all agree no cameras or recordings made it

so much more magical. We send a big thank you to Mr O’Kane who made the hall look so magical and who has assisted the children and staff during the last few weeks.

On Tuesday, the Souls Singers joined the children from the St Teresa of Calcutta Academy at Holy Family Church for our annual Carol Service. Thank you for tuning in and we hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did. A huge well done to all the children who performed it was magical!

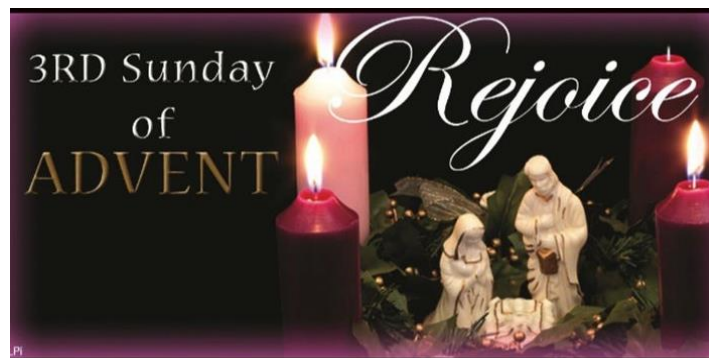
On Wednesday Mrs Keane and Miss Wood took the Y5 Souls Singers to sing carols and spend some time with the Holy Souls Bereavement group. Thank you to Sister Angela for inviting us and for the work you do in the parish.

The Soul Singers were in high demand as they, along with Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Pettigrew also enjoyed carol singing at Victoria Lodge on Thursday.

On Wednesday Mrs Kielstra and I took the Mini Vinnies for a special Christmas dinner treat at Archbishop Illsley. Father Christmas was there, and we enjoyed a lovely roast from Julie and the catering team.

I think you will agree it has been a busy and wonderful week!

Wishing you a joyful Gaudete Sunday.



God bless,

Mrs Girling and everyone at Holy Souls

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE – YOU HAVE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

SAVE THE DATE!

School closes at 1pm on Friday 20th December 2024 for Christmas break.

We reopen on Monday 6th January 2025 at 8:30am.

I am a Disciple for you Jesus

Reception	The whole class and staff!	Year 4	The whole class and staff!
Year 1	The whole class and staff!	Year 5	The Soul Singers and children who performed at the Nativity presentations.
Year 2	The whole class and staff!	Year 6	The Soul Singers
Year 3	The whole class and staff!	Community	Mrs McGarry, Sister Angela and Mr Crehan



LEADERS FOR LEARNING

RT	Ekiyah	4MK	Riley
1CK	Abid	4WM	Ruby-Sue
2KW	Archie	5J	Izabella
2W	Breah	5WG	Eli
3M	Tommy	6SC	Archie
3T	Millie	6PM	Nolan

Sports Stars of the Week



Reception - Sophie

KS1- Edward 2W

KS2 - Archie 5J

Well done Sports Stars –

Coach Dylan, Coach Henry and Coach Dom were very impressed with your skills!



Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots



Most coins collected this week

2KW	Tomasz	4WM	Ella
2W	Kayla	5J	Freddie
3M	Ara	5WG	Mayah
3T	Elizabeth	6SC	Anjola
4MK	Anthony	6PM	Sania-Rose
Well done trophy winners!			

We love to read!



RT	Rayan	4MK	Sophia
1CK	Lucy	4WM	Bartosz
2KW	Elsie	5J	Sajid
2W	Kayla	5WG	Sofia
3M	Audrey	6SC	Riley
3T	Cailan	6PM	Luke

What book are you reading this week?

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



Reception	309	Class 4MK	<u>482</u>
Class 1CK	242	Class 4WM	255
Class 2Wa	220	Class 5J	135
Class 2W	196	Class 5WG	175
Class 3M	267	Class 6PM	231
Class 3T	290	Class 6SC	279
This week's winners – Class 4MK Very well done to all the pupils in 4MK			



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

INTERNET SAFETY



As we approach Christmas an electronic device may be on your child's wish list. Please can we ask that you set the device with age-appropriate restrictions and regularly check what your child is doing, watching and participating in?

We have reminded the children about how to stay safe online and in discussions we are aware that some pupils are using APPS – TikTok, Snap Chat etc. -that are not age appropriate.

Do you know what apps your child has on their tablet or device?

Are they age appropriate?

How long are they spending on their electronic devices?

Please see the WEB ZONE tab on our school website where you can gain further knowledge and information regarding apps and websites.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.



SEND CORNER:

There are **four** items in this week's SEND corner.

Family First - Beacon 360

Mr Henvey and Mrs Brown delivered the third session of twelve of the Family First Programme on Wednesday.

In the session we looked at using our voices and how we should use this to be more authoritative when giving instructions.

We will not meet next Wednesday due to whole school mass, but we will return in the new year on Wednesday 15th January to look at the fourth session.

If you are interested in attending this group or the group that will begin at the end of February, then please contact the office on

enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk.

SEND Reviews

Thank you to all of the parents that have attended the SEND reviews in the last couple of weeks.

Do not worry if you have not yet met with Mr Henvey, he will be contacting you to arrange a date for a meeting. Some reviews will now take place in January.

Please can parents / carers make sure they attend SEND reviews if they have made appointments to see Mr Henvey.

EHCP New Documents (SENAR)

SENAR have recently introduced new documents that are designed to establish high standards to significantly improve educational experiences and outcomes for children with SEND and their families. From 11th April 2025 fully embedded and the old versions withdrawn.

SENAR will be providing weekly drop-in sessions from December 2024 to February 2025 for any questions.

Further details can be found following the link below.

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/blog/school-nb/post/1526/noticeboard -
5 december 2024/#EHCP%20Elevate](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/blog/school-nb/post/1526/noticeboard-_5_december_2024/#EHCP%20Elevate)

Birmingham Local Offer

A reminder that you can access all the help, advice and information about the services available for your child or young person from birth to 25 years with a special educational need or disability (SEND) on the Birmingham Local Offer website.

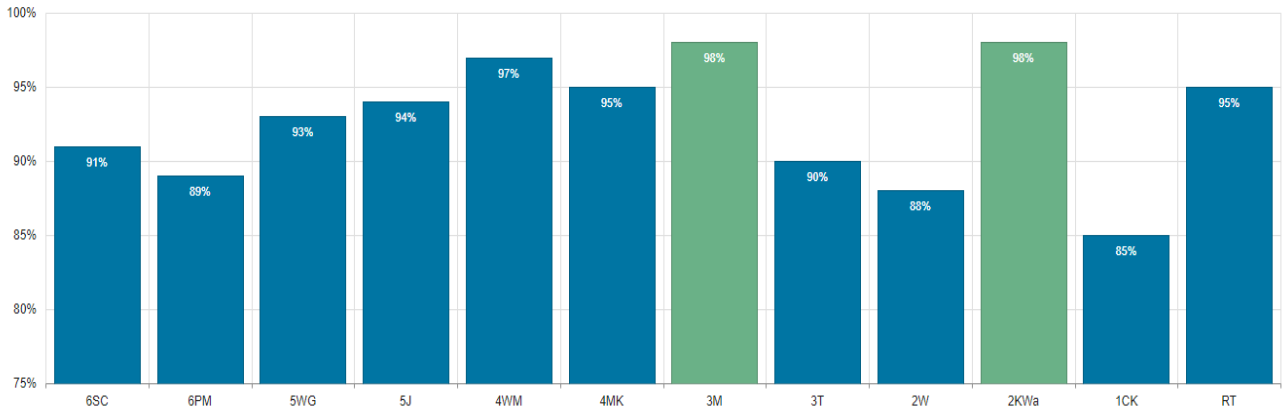
Further details can be found following the link below.

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>



Tutor Group ▾

Attendance ▾



School Attendance - 93%

Well done to 2KW and 3M - 98% attendance

This term ATTENDANCE has improved. We have managed to reduce the number of children who are Persistently Absent. This is brilliant – especially so for the children who need to be in on time every day to maximize their learning and play opportunities.

Well done children and families.

Let us now keep it up for 2025!

[The Importance of Punctuality](#)

At Holy Souls, we believe that punctuality is a key component of a successful educational experience. Being on time not only shows respect for others but also sets a positive tone for the day. Here are a few reasons why punctuality is so important:

1. **Creates a Positive Learning Environment:** When students arrive on time, they are ready to start the day with their classmates, participate in morning activities, and not miss important instructions.
2. **Builds Responsibility:** Learning to be punctual helps students develop a sense of responsibility and time management skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.
3. **Reduces Disruptions:** Late arrivals can be disruptive to the class and can cause the student to miss valuable learning time.
4. **Promotes Respect:** Being on time shows respect for teachers and classmates and helps to foster a respectful and cooperative classroom environment.

We encourage all students to strive for punctuality every day. Here are a few tips to help ensure your child arrives on time:

- **Prepare the Night Before:** Pack school bags, lay out uniforms, and ensure all homework is completed.
- **Set a Routine:** Establish a consistent bedtime and wake-up time to ensure your child gets enough rest.
 - **Plan Ahead:** Allow extra time in the morning for unexpected delays.

Thank you for your support in helping our students develop this important habit. Together, we can create a positive and productive learning environment for everyone.

Advent Prayer Bag

Thank you to all of the families that have added to our Advent Padlet so far. It has been wonderful to see the children setting out their Prayer focus at home and praying with their family.

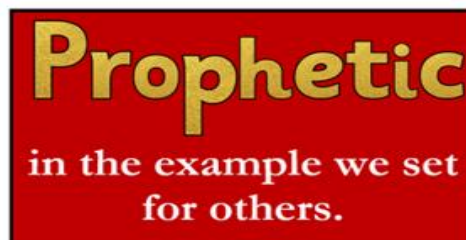


Click on the link to add your Advent Prayer or Advent craft.

<https://padlet.com/MissTrodden/cst-families-and-communities-advent-vpcgutp4jhmi9qni>

Advent Charity

Thank you to all the families that have been so generous with sending items for the Christmas Hampers, sending money in for our Advent charities and for donating toys and clothes. It is very much appreciated.



Family Mass

Thank you to all of the families that joined us for Family Mass last weekend. It was a joyous occasion.

Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The children are invited to bring their bambinelli that they have made in school to be blessed at 10am Mass at Sacred Heart and Holy Souls Church.





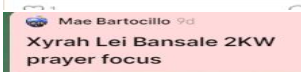
Caragh veseey-whitmore 2d
Caragh veseey-whitmore year 5

1
Add comment



Louise 5d
Ethan G 6PM

By our christmas tree
We enjoyed setting our prayer focus up by the Christmas tree we made the advent finger puzzle



Mae Bartocillo 9d
Xyrah Lei Bansale 2KW prayer focus

God, please bless my school. Thank You for all of the teacher that work so hard to help us learn. Thank You for recess and lunchtime, when we get to play with our friends. Thank You for providing a place where we can learn more about the world You created for us to live in, and how it works. Please keep my school safe. Protect all of the grown ups and kids that come to school everyday. Protect us from harm, and help us to be kind to each other. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Xyrah lei Bansale 2KW Nativity Scene



Mae Bartocillo 6d
Xyrah Lei B. 2KW



May the light of this candle always shine in our hearts. Let Jesus great love marvel for us as Christmas draws closer.

I enjoyed coloring and I'll follow the advent calendar given to me.

Eliza Angels Prayer Focus.



She started her prayer with " In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen

Vanessa 6d

Vanessa 6SC

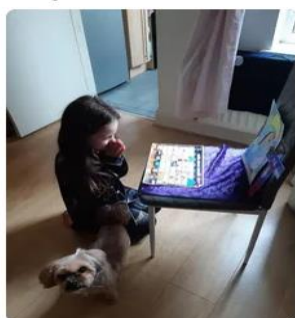


Advent



Prayer Bag Padlet

Ruby-Sue class 4WM



I enjoyed setting up my prayer focus at home, with the image of Mary that I coloured, and sharing some time with God.

Sabina Avram year 2W



Sabina enjoyed and after she finish she say prayer

Liliana Year 5



Toby 4WM prayer focus



1
Miss K.Wood, Class 4WM 1d



Sania 6d

My prayer focus.



May Jesus, the light of the world, be the best present this Christmas. May he bring hope, peace, joy and love to you and your family.

Ella Hardy 4MK



1 Add comment

Lena B 6PM - Advent Prayer Focus



Lena W 8d

Advent



Miss K.Wood, Class 4WM 1d



Miss K.Wood, Class 4WM 1d



Brilliant Bunny 4d



April 6PM
I enjoyed making the pictures and putting on the statues
2 Add comment

Amber J 2d



Amber4WM
I enjoyed setting it up
2 Add comment

Iszach 4MK prayer focus



Toby 4WM prayer focus



1 Miss K.Wood, Class 4WM 1d



Advent

Prayer Bag Padlet

Fabulous Deer 19h
Daniel Dourado 4WM Prayer Focus



Eniola's picture colour by her whole family



Aimy Sweetan 5d
AIMY SWEETAN



1

Aliza Dalton year 1



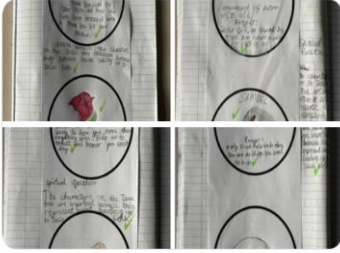
Enjoying the pray bag
1 Add comment

Vanessa 5d
Filip - RT





Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 1m
 Year 3 have learnt about the Jesse Tree and identified the ancestors of Jesus. With their chosen ancestor, they wrote a prayer, drew its ornament and read the scriptures in the Bible
[#Advent](#) [#FamiliesandCommunities](#)
[#Jessetree](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 8m
 The children in Year 2 had a wonderful Advent Day! They talked about how to prepare their hearts for Jesus's birth. The class made a promise to pray everyday for the poor and sick and create peace in the world and their classroom
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#) [#Peace](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 21m
 Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful Advent Day creating many pieces of work for their Advent Prayer Focus and celebrating with Prayer led by some of our friends. They created an Advent Kindness Tree and thought of ways to be kind during Advent
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#)



Do Something Different Advent Day 2024



Holy Souls Catholic Primary... · 29/11/2024
 Today in Reception during their, 'Do Something Different Advent Day' they wore purple, changed their Prayer Focus to purple and looked at their Advent Prayer Bag that was going home
[#Advent](#)
[#FamiliesandCommunities](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 21m
 Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful Advent Day creating many pieces of work for their Advent Prayer Focus and celebrating with Prayer led by some of our friends. They made Advent Promises
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#)



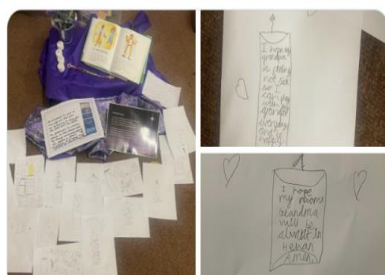
Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 1m
 On Advent Day, children in Year 3 led a special Advent Prayer. They read the story of the Annunciation and in their Going Forth they said we will trust God's plan for us just like Mary did
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 21m
 Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful Advent Day creating many pieces of work for their Advent Prayer Focus. During Advent the children have promised to pray for those persecuted for their religion
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#)
[#RedWednesday](#) [#LiveSimply](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary School · 8m
 Year 2 learnt about the Advent wreath and its five special candles. The children led a beautiful liturgy about hope. They drew their own candles and wrote their hopes for the future
[#Advent](#) [#Prayer](#) [#Hope](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary... · 29/11/2024
 Today in Reception during their, 'Do Something Different Day' they wore purple, changed their Prayer Focus to purple and visited the new Advent Prayer Focus in the office
[#Advent](#) [#FamiliesandCommunities](#)



Holy Souls Catholic Primary... · 29/11/2024
 This week @SoulsSchool we have had our, 'Do Something Different Advent Day'. Year 5 and Year 6 have made their Advent Kindness Tree which shows the different ways they have thought how to be kind throughout Advent
[#Advent](#) [#FamiliesandCommunities](#)

