



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 6th January 2023

Happy New Year to all!

Welcome back to school for the start of the Spring Term. I hope that your Christmas was enjoyable, restful and that you and your children are refreshed for the start of the new school term.

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word Advent and Christmas Special for the last three weekends and this weekend is available on the 'Catholic Life' page of the school website at <https://www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk/religious-life/wednesday-word>. Please do make time to consider the themes of a New Start from this weekend's gospel.



The Epiphany of Our Lord Mass

This morning, the Junior classes attended the parish's Epiphany of Our Lord Mass at St. Teresa's Church. The Feast of the Epiphany is an important event in the Christian calendar marking Jesus being visited by the three wise men. Their arrival is Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people), the first sign that the mission of the Church is to be for all. Thank you to the children who played their part including walking to and from the church safely. Thank you to the staff and parent who looked after the children on their pilgrimage to and from church.



Eloquent and Truthful

This half term the two Virtues that are to be a focus for us and the other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are to be 'eloquent' and 'truthful'.

Eloquent: the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately. We are eloquent when we use language to express our ideas or opinions clearly and with conviction. When we choose our words, we should do so carefully so they are kind and compassionate, and don't hurt others. Eloquence isn't limited to speaking and writing. We can express ourselves in other ways like music, drama, painting or dance. We should use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

Truthful: God wants us to be truthful in all we do. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', so being honest and truthful means we are following in his footsteps and living life the way God wants us to. Being truthful is being faithful to ourselves and to Jesus. We should stand up for the truth.



Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to Year 3 and Year 6, which were the best attending classes for the last week of the Autumn term. Year 3's and Year 6's attendance was 96.7%. Congratulations to Year 4 and Year 6 for being the most punctual classes for the last week of last term. There were three Year 4 and three Year 6 children late before the registers closed and no child from Year 3 or Year 6 was late after the registers closed.

Attendance for the Autumn Term 2022.

The attendances for each class for the Autumn term were:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 st - Year 3 - 97.4% | 2 nd - Year 6 - 96.1% | 3 rd - Year 5 - 95.7% | 4 th - Year 4 - 95.6% |
| 5 th - Year 2 - 93.8% | 6 th - Year 1 - 91.2% | 7 th - Reception - 88.6% | |

Well done Year 3! You are the class to beat. The same children were the best attending class for the Autumn Term 2021 when they were in Year 2! The overall attendance for the school in the Autumn term was 94.1% - the same as

the attendance during Autumn 2021, however the range across the classes from highest attendance to lowest is much greater this year. Well done to anyone whose attendance was 97% or better, anyone from 90% to 95% needs to improve their attendance this term.

In the Autumn term, there was one child in Reception, four from Year 1, three from Year 2, nine from Year 3, seven from Year 4, five from Year 5 and five from Year 6 with 100% attendance. Well done to the thirty-four children whose attendance has been 100% since the start of the school year.

There are thirty-seven children whose attendance, being less than 90%, classes them as 'persistent absentees'. Several of these absences are for reasonable medical reasons, but this amount of absence equates to a day out of school every fortnight!

If your child is absent from school please contact school to inform us of that absence. Please do not make avoidable appointments during school hours. Parents/carers of children's whose attendance is concerning will be expected provide evidence of any appointments for which they wish to remove their child from school

School meals

Next week will be Week 2 of the menu choices. The menu is on the School Dinners page on the school website which is at: www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk/parents-info/school-dinners

Aston Villa Foundation – Community Football

Below is a link to football training opportunities for children which are provided by the Aston Villa Foundation. Sessions for girls are being promoted at a cost of £3 a session rather than the usual £7.

<https://tickets.avfc.co.uk/en-GB/categories/fitc-skills-and-player-development-centres>

School Governors

In the last newsletter we thanked Mr Panesar, who served on the school's governing body as a Parent Governor for nearly three years and we welcomed Mrs Garvey who has been appointed as a Foundation Governor. We now welcome Mr Gillam who has recently been appointed as a Foundation Governor. The process to elect another Parent Governor will start shortly.

Birth announcement

Congratulations to Aaliyah and her family on the birth of a baby boy Kaziah, on 19th December. Aaliyah is very proud of the new member of her family.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 16th December at 3.00 p.m. to Friday 27th January at 3.00 p.m. – Consultation on the 2024/2025 Admission procedures. These procedures and a letter with further details were forwarded to parents/carers on 16th December and are available as downloads at www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk/parents-info
- Friday 13th January and each Friday during the Spring term – Year 5 Swimming lessons in the afternoon.
- Friday 13th January – St. Teresa's Boys and Girls teams competing in the Caritas Christi In Urbe Cross Country running event at St. Paul's Girls' Secondary School.
- Sunday 15th January – Closing date for applications for places in Reception 2023 in Birmingham schools. This is done by applying at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.
- Monday 16th January – Visiting theatre group performance of 'Cinderella' at school for all children. Children to donate £2.00 for performance and may dress as fairy tale characters for the day.
- Wednesday 18th January – 9.00 a.m. to 9.45 a.m. – Parents and carers are invited to a Hygiene, Healthy Eating and Sleep workshop led by Nurse Lowe. More information to follow.
- Tuesday 31st January – Rags2Riches collection day at school. The weight of the items donated will determine the amount of money the school will receive.

D. Corkery

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