



**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

4th December 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

The children will be preparing for Christmas and talking about how they can prepare during the season of Advent. Each week we will light a candle on our Advent wreath and look at what it represents. Please do talk to your children about it and support them in their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

Each year group has been busy working on their enterprise projects and have been immersed in developing their enterprise skills - team work, communication and problem solving. Children have worked collaboratively to raise money for an agreed charity and will be holding sales over the next few weeks. Please do support them and keep an eye out for details of when children will be selling items they have made.

The weather is continuing to change and temperatures have dropped significantly, so please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat and should they wear boots travelling to school, please do ensure they have black school shoes to change into during the school day. Trainers are not allowed other than in P.E and at lunchtime play. Do please check that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your child's name as it is very difficult to return items in lost property without names.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

These will start the week commencing 22nd January 2018 and will run for 6 weeks ending the week commencing 5th March 2018. We have been contacted by a company offering science lessons and the cost for the six weeks will be £48. A letter will go out shortly to assess the level of interest as the company can only offer the club if they have a minimum of 15 pupils. I do hope that we will be able to fill the places as this is a great opportunity.

We will continue to offer a range of sports and arts club and applications will be processed in the normal way with a form being sent out on Thursday 14th December 2017.

YEAR 5 MEETING 6th DECEMBER 2017 at 8.30am

There will be an opportunity for Year 5 parents to look at their children's books and discuss any questions they have on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 8:30 am, in the Junior Hall.

MEDICATION & ALLERGIES

Please make sure that you have completed a medical form to notify the school of any allergies your child may have. If they have been prescribed medication it is essential that you meet with either myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team to complete the appropriate forms.

NUT FREE ZONE

*We have a number of children in the school who are allergic to nuts, therefore we have a policy of **NO NUTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES**. Please do abide by this rule in the interest of the health and safety of all our pupils. Thank you.*

This term is flying past and the children are busy rehearsing for the Nativity and Advent services. Please note the following key dates below. As with previous years, Nursery to Y2 will perform their Nativity plays in the Junior Hall. The junior Advent Service will be held in Good Shepherd Church starting at 1:45 pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

8th December	Choir Singing at Whitgift at 1-2pm
12th December	Nursery Nativity 9.15am
14th December	Reception and KS1 Nativity at 9.15am
15th December	Reception to Bromley Theatre KS2 Advent Service 1.45 pm in GS Church)
20th December	Christmas Lunch and Panto
21st December	School Closes at 1.15pm for the Christmas Holiday

Finally please do add this term's key dates to your diary. Many thanks.

Mrs Fernandes - Headteacher

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2018

Our school development plan is an ongoing document which is reviewed regularly and objectives set are based on progress and attainment across the school. Our children continue to make strong progress each year and results at the end of each key stage (EYFS, KS1 & KS2) are at least in line with national averages and in some areas above. Our maths results were disappointing at the end of Year 6 in the summer 2017 and strategies put into place this year have already seen positive results. Staff meet with senior leaders to look at progress in each class and identify pupils who would benefit from support to enable them to meet required standards or to exceed.

We are very fortunate to have a highly committed staff who know their children well and this supports the school's high expectations for all pupils. Thank you for supporting your child as this makes all the difference to outcomes.

The main areas of development for the school are:

- 1. To further develop mathematical reasoning skills so that pupils confidently apply their knowledge to solving problems (to include word problems) and can explain their reasoning.*

How can you help?

- * Help your child to learn their number bonds, tables and other number rules/facts*
 - * Support their learning by using practical equipment if necessary*
 - * Use word problems to enable them to apply their skills (e.g. working with money, time etc)*
 - * Encourage them to explain their ideas - this will help them to think through steps and identify errors*
- 2. To extend the range of texts children read to develop use of rich vocabulary - this will also benefit their writing and further develop general knowledge*

How can you help?

- * Read with your child regularly (daily would be ideal) and talk about the text*
- * Develop their comprehension skills through questioning (e.g. Why does the author use certain words?)*
- * Encourage them to use a dictionary/thesaurus to look up definition of unfamiliar words and synonyms*
- * Share different texts with them e.g. fiction, non-fiction, newspaper articles etc)*
- To extend the range of challenging texts and read regularly at home - with a focus on*

We will be sending out further detailed information over this term and suggestions on how to support your child.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday
3 December

Mark 13:33-37

Advent is a special time where we get ready for the coming of Jesus.

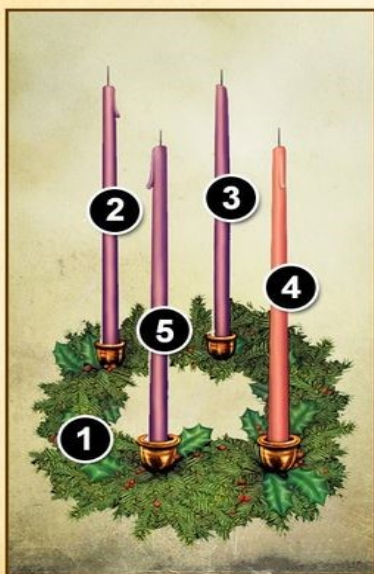
Jesus asks us to look out and keep our eyes open for what is happening around us, so that we are ready when he comes. What do you think Jesus wants us to see when we look around?



When we look around, we sometimes see people who need our help. Let's remember this. This Advent, let's look out especially for people who have been forced to leave everything behind to find somewhere safe to live.

ADVENT FEATURE

ADVENT WREATH SYMBOLS



(1) Evergreen Wreath - The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God (the Alpha and Omega). The evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the foundation of all good. Green is the color that represents hope and new life.

Four Candles - represent the four (4) weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. The first two purple candles symbolizes (2) hope and (3) love respectively. The (4) third candle (which is pink/rose) symbolizes joy. The fourth and last purple candle represents (5) peace.

The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ to mankind.

Head Teacher Award

NURSERY: Temilope & Funmi

RECEPTION: Daniel T & Eden

*YEAR 1: Joseph, Jaydin, Ethan S &
Ethan C*

YEAR 2: Daniel & Kaitlyn

YEAR 3: Louisa & Hannah

YEAR 4: Raymond, Abel & Beatriz

YEAR 5: Joanne, Joy & Toyosi

YEAR 6: Lidiya & Tia

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

*We are striving for 100% attendance and punctuality.
Remember classroom doors are open at 8.40 a.m*

WEEK ENDING: 1st December 2017:

**WINNING CLASS FOR PUNCTUALITY—N, Year 1,
Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6**

OVERALL ATTENDANCE: 97.8%

Father Con's reflection

*Yesterday, Sunday (3rd December), We entered the holy
season of ADVENT, and the opening day of the
Church's new year.*

*(The Church's new year will always begin
approximately one month before the new calendar
year).*

*This school week will end on the great feast of the
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
(8th December).*

Diary Dates

2nd Half of Autumn Term

5th December	Nasal Flu Immunisation R to Yr 4
6th December	Choir Singing at Confirmation Mass at GS Church 7:30 pm
8th December	Science Assembly
8th December	Choir Singing at Whitgift 1-2pm
12th December	Nursery Nativity 9.15am
14th December	Reception and KS1 Nativity 9.15am
15th December	Reception to Bromley Theatre KS2 Advent Service 1.45 pm at GS Church
20th December	Christmas Lunch and Panto
21st December	School Closes at 1.15pm for the Christmas Holiday

Parents and Carers of pupils in the Early Years and Years 1 and 2 are encouraged to come into class daily to work with your child from 8.45 to 9.00 a.m.

Please do support your child but I ask that you leave the classroom by 8.55 am, at the latest before the school gate is closed.

