



# Good Shepherd Newsletter

Friday 12th December 2025

*Learning together as part of God's family*

## Nursery and Reception Nativity



Well done to our Nursery and Reception classes for their wonderful Nativity this week reminding us of the true story of Christmas.



## Attendance

Our winning class this week is Year 6 with 98.8% attendance - well done!



## Active Future Wraparound care

Active Future are reducing the cost of their wraparound care from January as a result of some additional funding they have received.

**£5.00 per day**      **3:15-4:15pm**

**£10.00 per day**      **3:15-5:45pm**

The after-school programme offers a safe and nurturing environment with structured activities and friendly staff.

They offer a range of activities 3:15-4:15pm every day. Please see attached information.

Parents and carers can contact them directly at [afcroydon@activefuture.info](mailto:afcroydon@activefuture.info) to register their child or learn more about the provision.

*Be kind and respectful*

## Mrs Downing's SEND Bulletin

More Tips to help you make the most of the festive season

### Handle gifts and surprises gently

While some children love surprises, others can find them stressful or confusing. Remember that it's not about the surprise, it's about the joy of giving and receiving in a way that feels comfortable and safe.

### Try:

Talking with your child about what gifts they may receive.

Avoiding excessive wrapping or loud toys if they cause distress.

Letting them open presents slowly, one at a time, with breaks in between.

Offering unwrapped gifts or clear gift bags if unwrapping feels difficult.

### Look after yourself too

Supporting a child with SEND through the festive season can be tiring – emotionally and physically. Don't forget that your wellbeing matters too. When you look after yourself, it's easier to support your child with patience and calm.

### Remember:

Take breaks when you can and accept help when it's offered.

Connect with other parents who understand what you're going through.

Be kind to yourself – you're doing your best, and that's more than enough.

If things feel overwhelming, reach out to local SEND services or support groups.

## Headteacher and Kindness Awards

Well done to the following children who have worked hard, had great behaviour or have shown great kindness and thoughtfulness to others:

### Headteacher Award: Kindness Award:

R: Heran,	Aiden A, Jevani
Y1: Juana,	Lydianne
Y2: Amelia, Jasmine,	Isabella, Jasmine Jenneh, Sukaina,
Y3: Mikel,	Narai, Petra, Sarah
Y4: Mariyam,	Sienna
Y5: Jeremy	Chimdindu
Y6: Aiden,	Oscar

## Antarctica

Last Friday, we joined the first-ever live stream from Union Glacier in Antarctica. Over one million children watched live along with Good Shepherd children!

## Christmas Parties

Every class will have a Christmas disco on Wednesday 17th during school time.



## Pyjama Day

Tuesday 16th is Pyjama Day for Cafod! Children are invited to wear their pyjamas to school on Tuesday and bring in £1 for Cafod's World Gifts which helps people round the world. [CAFOD ethical charity gifts collection – CAFOD World Gifts](#)

For safeguarding reasons, children should wear their navy joggers over their pyjamas to travel to and from school (and also wear them at lunchtime to keep themselves warm).

## Term Dates 2026-2027

Good Shepherd's term dates for next year are attached (and also on the school's website). Please ensure travel plans are in the school holidays and you leave enough time to get back for the first day of term in case there are any travel delays.

## Friends of Good Shepherd (FROGS)



### Christmas Raffle Congratulations to:

- \* Adults' hamper: Brue's grandmother Y4
- \* Pizza: Ameliah Y6
- \* Children's hamper: Keziah-Rose Y5

Thank You! Thank you to our parents, staff and children for your donations, time and support this year.

A special thanks to Morley's, Dominos, Tesco and other local businesses for their contributions and raffle prizes. This has helped us to raise funds for the school and our children.

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy a joyful and restful festive season with your loved ones. Thank you once again for your continued support! Friends of Good Shepherd.

Coffee morning 2026 Our next coffee morning, will be on Thursday 15th January at 8.40am and 2.30pm in the school hub. Please come along if you're available, all are welcome

## Fr Con's Reflection



This Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December is GAUDETE SUNDAY i.e. REJOICING SUNDAY. (It is always the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 4 Sundays of Advent).

'GAUDETE' from the Latin, is a vocative, in terms of parts of speech. It is an exhortation, a call to us to "REJOICE!"

"Rejoice" is the keyword in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent's 2 phases, which opens on 16<sup>th</sup> December and lasts to Christmas Eve inclusive (i.e. 8 days in total, compared to the 16 days of Advent's phase 1).

"Rejoice" points us inwardly to inner spiritual joy at our Saviour's birth. With this in place, the natural outward enjoyment of Christmas is free to flourish.

*Have a lovely weekend*

**School closes next Friday at 1:15pm and reopens at 8:40am on Monday 5th January.**

*Mrs Day*