



## Autumn 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the autumn term fast approaches and our thoughts are firmly focussed on Christmas. This is a wonderful time of year for our community as we journey through the season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. It has been an action packed term and there are more events planned as the final week approaches. Assemblies have focused on keeping Jesus at the heart of our preparations. Sometimes easier said than done but a worthy aspiration.

### **Our Catholic Life and Celebrations**

Abbey Carol Service – on December 4<sup>th</sup>, Year 6 took part in the Abbey Carol Service. As always, Mrs Goldsmith had prepared the children beautifully and the event was a great success.

Westminster Advent Service – fifteen pupils accompanied Mr Sallis, Mrs Lewis and myself to the fantastic Westminster Cathedral Carol Service complete with live animals. Once again, members of the public stopped us, while travelling on the trains, to congratulate us on the politeness and charming behaviour of the children. They really are a credit to their parents, carers and the school.

Carol Concert – the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert was held in St Bart's on 12<sup>th</sup> December. The children were outstanding in their singing and performance of the nativity story. A big thank you goes to Mrs Goldsmith for once again preparing the children and also to all our unsung heroes - the staff who ensure the children and the props are prepared and ready.

Foundation and Key Stage 1 productions were held this week and were a great success – a huge pat on the back to children. Foundation stage delighted their families with their nativity titled 'The First Christmas' and KS1 performed 'The Bossy Christmas Fairy' to a packed hall yesterday evening. I would like to thank all the staff involved for preparing the children and you as their parents for attending and supporting them.

End of Term Mass will be on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30 am. It will be Father Francis' first mass in school and we hope to welcome him with a wonderful celebration. All are welcome.

Prayer Friday – we have now had three Prayer Fridays. Thank you to the families who have supported these events. It is delightful to see families enter into collective prayer and the school will continue to provide opportunities for this to happen.

### **Behaviour, Awards and Merits:**

Anti-bullying week – we are blessed with wonderfully behaved children at St. Adrian's. This happens because of the consistent approach to behaviour expectations across the whole school and the support of the parent community. Weeks such as Anti-bullying Week reinforce these expectations. The poster competition produced some strong messages on how pupils at St Adrian's should continue to behave. Mr Sallis and the School Council have displayed some of this artwork around the school for children to see.

Islam Week – as part of our ongoing commitment to celebrate other world faiths, an Islam Week was held in school in November. Children from Nursery to Year 6 had the opportunity to learn about the Muslim faith including: use of prayer mats, Muhammad, The Mosque, The Qur'an, Ramadan and pilgrimage.



# St Adrian's Catholic Primary School



'To learn, to love, to live as a community of God with Christ as our teacher'

## Staffing

Mrs May had a beautiful baby girl, born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Both mum and baby are doing well and we look forward to them both visiting the school soon.

Mr Aaron Linehan has decided to pursue another career opportunity and he will be leaving us in the New Year. We are grateful to Mr Linehan for his work and efforts at the school.

**KK Gifts:** Traditionally during Advent, the children and staff at St Adrian's have a custom called Kris Kringle. Each child randomly picks the name of another in their class group and then says special prayers and carries out special small deeds for that person during Advent – the idea being to do so anonymously. The person who has your child's name is known as their KK. On the last day of term all the Kks are revealed and a small gift is given by the KK. May I ask you to remember to send your child with a suitable wrapped gift by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December - labelled and ready to be passed on. This allows us to remind those who may have forgotten before the last day. A guide price of about £3/£5 is suggested. In turn s/he will also come home with a gift from their KK on the last day of term when all Kks are revealed!

**Christmas Lunch:** This year Christmas dinner will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. If your child does not usually have school lunch but has ordered a special Christmas lunch on that day, please ensure you have paid.

**PTA:** The PTA have been hard at work this term. I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the PTA and the helpers who made the Christmas Fair such an enjoyable event and wonderful success. Thank you also to everyone who came along to support the fair and contributed to the profit raising over £3000. The atmosphere in school during the event showed a great community spirit. Thank you all for your generosity of time and money.

**Absences:** May I remind you that children's attendance is monitored termly by an attendance officer and we are accountable for our attendance figures, both authorised and unauthorised absences. Unfortunately, some families continue to take holidays in term time or take children out for long weekends away which has a significant impact on our attendance figures as well as on children's learning and progress. Please avoid booking holidays in school time as they will not be authorised.

**Playground and safeguarding:** Once again I am going to remind parents and carers that, in the interests of safeguarding, should adults need to visit the school office their entry to the school should be through the main entrance.

**School closes** for Christmas break at 1:30pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December and reopens on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**Thank you:** I would like to thank everyone for supporting me in my first term as Head-teacher of St Adrian's. We have had a very good term with much to celebrate and be grateful for. May I wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

## Future dates for your diary:

<p>January</p> <p>7th Children return</p> <p>9th Feast of St Adrian – Assembly</p> <p>11th 13:30 – 14:00 Sharing Friday</p> <p>18th 09:30 Mass in school - all welcome</p> <p>25th 13:30 – 14:00 Prayer Friday</p>	<p>February</p> <p>8th Year 4 Class assembly</p> <p><b>Note changed from 1st</b></p> <p>8th 13:30 – 14:00 Sharing Friday</p> <p>12th Consultations 17:00 -19:30</p> <p>13th Consultations 17:00 -19:30</p> <p>18th – 22th Half-term</p>
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