



## Mount Carmel RC Primary Newsletter

*Truth, Love, Life to The Full*

### Autumn Week 13- 8/12/23

#### Message from the Headteacher



During collective worship this week, I have discussed with the children how Advent is a time of preparation for celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas and looking forward to His Second Coming. We have discussed how we are called to be a 'Witness to the Light' and how we must always have ready hearts for Jesus. We thought about Mary and how Mary is the perfect example of being ready to respond to God's call. She lived a holy life, full of faith in God. Her heart was ready to listen and was open to God working in and through her.

This weekend, as we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, we rejoice in God's love for us and our love for each other.

With love and prayers,

Mrs Seaborn

#### A Year of Prayer

*"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." Pope Francis*

In the Bible, Jubilee years were held every 50 years, but the Church now celebrates them every 25 years. This means that there's another one coming up in 2025. It's a big celebration, and Pope Francis wants us to spend a year preparing for the Jubilee, starting in Advent 2023 - starting now! He has called this period of preparation, a Year of Prayer.

As a catholic school, our prayer life is at the heart of our school. Throughout this 'Year of Prayer' we will support the children in leading their own prayers and developing their own prayer life. We will encourage our whole school community to join in prayer. Take a look at the prayer resources on the CAFOD website to support prayer life at home during this Advent <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-prayers>

### In the Curriculum

Yr3 children have been learning about St Nikolaus in German. They now know that his feast day is December 6th and the night before, German children leave their shoes outside the door for St Nikolaus to fill with sweets if they have been good. The children in Y3 made their own shoes and left them on their desks. When they came into class on the 6th they were delighted to find that St Nikolaus had visited and left them chocolate as they have been so good.

The Junior children visited Middleton Arena this week to see the pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk.' The children had a fabulous time and the 3D glasses brought the performance to life. Please ask your child what happened to the cream pies during the performance... poor Mr Dalton!

Year 1 have been making bird houses in their D&T lessons this term. They have researched different bird houses and made their own bird houses by assembling and joining materials using a simple construction kit.



Thank you to the parents who attended the parent's workshop about mental health awareness. This event was well supported and helped us all to understand risk factors, support mechanisms at home and in school and most importantly, five ways to wellbeing. Information packs are available in the Infant office if you would like a copy.

### SEND Drop In

On Wednesday 13th December, our SENDCo, Mrs Watson, will be available to speak to any parents and offer advice around special educational needs and disability issues. This drop-in will be held in the morning between 9- 12am at the Junior Department. Parents can attend from either building. If you would like an appointment, please book through the offices.

### Christmas Holiday Activities (children eligible for benefits-related free school meals)

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching. MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of FREE places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Activities will range from Sport and Physical Activities, Arts and Crafts and much more. In addition to the activities, their booked place will include a FREE meal during the day.

For more information & to book your child's space\*: You will need to sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcactive.com/> (sign in) to book free Christmas holiday activities. Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' - Use code: 99765 to book free eligible activities. Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.

\*Please only book your child onto a holiday camp if they will be attending. Spaces at each camp are limited. If you book a space and your child can no longer attend, please cancel your space as far in

advance as possible, to allow the opportunity for another child to take their space at the activity and free meal.

### PTA

Thank you to the parents who joined us for the PTA meeting on Monday night. It was nice to welcome some new faces to the team. The PTA are excited to announce some Christmas events. The Infant Department are invited to a Breakfast with Santa and the Junior Department are invited to a 'Christmas Night In'. Tickets for the events are £3.50 and available at the school office.

Mount Carmel PTA  
Presents  
**Breakfast with Santa**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December- Reception  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Year 1  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December- Nursery  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December- Year 2

Breakfast with Santa starts at 8:15am  
Tickets £3.50

Parentkind  
Member Association

Mount Carmel PTA  
Presents  
**'A Christmas Night In'**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 3:30- 5:15pm

KS2 children are invited to enjoy a hot chocolate and a Christmas cookie whilst watching a Christmas movie.  
Tickets £3.50

Parentkind  
Member Association

### New Music Equipment



Last week, we received lots of exciting music equipment including some new instruments ( class sets of recorders, ukuleles, boomwhackers and glockenspiels) and some music technology devices. We are really excited about incorporating all of these fantastic things into our music curriculum in the Spring term - watch this space!

For a musical fix before Christmas, please come along to our Year 2 and EYFS nativities and our KS2 music and mince pie afternoon in the coming weeks.

### Virtues and Values

This term we are growing to be Intentional and Prophetic. We will be promoting these values in school through our collective worship and in discussions with the children. Each week a child in each class will be chosen for a special certificate for using these values and will have afternoon tea with Mrs Seaborn.

*“**Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.”*

## Winter Sickness

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) North West (formerly Public Health England) has recently seen an increase in confirmed cases of STEC/E.coli with links to school and nursery settings.

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children away from school. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The e-bug resources <https://www.e-bug.eu> for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important - to your child.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the NHS web pages.

For useful handwashing tips please have a look at the following NHS video- <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

## Welcome back Mrs Dale

On Monday Mrs Dale returns to school after her maternity leave and we want to give her a warm welcome back. After Christmas, Mrs Dale will be teaching in Y1L on a Monday- Wednesday. Mrs Liversage will teach Wednesday- Friday.

## Attendance for the Week

Every day counts! We will be holding a KS2 raffle each half term for children who achieve 100% attendance during that half term. The prize for this half term is cinema gift vouchers.

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>Year 3D</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
<b>Reception S</b>	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>Year 3R</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
<b>Reception J</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>Year 4L</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
<b>Year 1B</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>Year 4S</b>	<b>92.7%</b>
<b>Year 1L</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>Year 5H</b>	<b>96.1%</b>
<b>Year 2C</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>Year 5W</b>	<b>96.5%</b>
<b>Year 2G</b>	<b>82.7%</b>	<b>Year 6B</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
		<b>Year 6C</b>	<b>95.3%</b>

## Dates for the Dairy

12/12/23	<u>Y6 Visit the Christmas Markets</u>
13/12/23	<u>SEND Parent Drop in @Junior Department 9am- 12pm (CHANGE OF DATE )</u> If you would like to meet with Mrs Watson please call the office for an appointment. Parents from Nursery- Year 6 welcome
13/12/23	<u>Infant Pantomime</u> Reception- Y2 'Sleeping Beauty' will be performed by a Theatre Group coming in to school
14/12/23	<u>Christmas Music Afternoon</u> KS2 parents please join us for an afternoon of Christmas music. Mince pies and hot drinks provided.
18/12/23	<u>PTA breakfast with Santa Reception</u>
19/12/23	<u>PTA Breakfast with Santa Year 1</u>

19/12/23	<u>(Nursery and Reception) Nativity Performance. (Parents Welcome)</u> Nursery Performance 9:15am Nursery Classroom Reception Performance 2:30pm Infant Hall
19/12/23	<u>Christmas Dinner Day- Please pay on school grid</u>
19/12/23	<u>PTA KS2- Christmas Night In</u>
20/12/23	<u>Christmas Party Day- Please wear party clothes. Christmas party dinner available on school grid.</u>
20/12/23	<u>PTA Breakfast with Santa Nursery</u>
21/12/23	<u>PTA Breakfast with Santa Year 2</u>
22/12/23	<u>Year 2 Nativity Performance - Y2 Parents Welcome. 9am Infant Hall.</u>
22/12/23	<u>School closes for Christmas at <b>1:30pm</b></u>