



Dear Parents,

I have just had the opportunity to attend the Foundation Stage dress rehearsal of their Nativity. It was beautiful and I know many parents will agree with me when they see it this afternoon. It has been tremendously busy here at school over the last few weeks. Not only have each year group been preparing their Nativity but also done some Christmas Shopping, enjoyed a visit to Fr. Christmas, had Christmas Dinner and attended a pantomime!

Class 8 have spent a couple of weeks 'trailing' a new Online Maths programme - Mathletics. Thank you to them. It has been very successful and I am now inviting every child in the school to participate with it. You will receive a letter before the end of term with details. We are also going to run a Christmas holiday competition so look for details of that too.

We look forward to seeing Y1 and Y2 in their Nativities next week. Check the Newsletter for details.

*S. Rameed*

**CHRISTMAS BLESSING - Wednesday 21st December 2016**

All parents are invited to attend this short Assembly and blessing. Please note there is no room in the hall for older brothers and sisters who may have already broken up from school or who are sick.



The barrier to the car park will open at 12.30pm. The Main door to the school will open at 1.00pm. **The Christmas blessing will start at 1.15pm. prompt. (All children will take part in the Christmas Tableau)**

When the blessing is finished, the children will return to their classrooms.

Parent will exit via the back of the hall and go around to your child's outside classroom door.

When you have picked up your child exit the school through your child's classroom and out via the Main school door.

**LAST DAY OF TERM - Wednesday 21st December 2016**

The school will close at 2p.m. and ALL children (including coach children) must be picked up by 2p.m. The coaches will run as normal in the morning but will not be picking up any INFANT school children in the evening. **If you are not coming to the blessing at 1.15m., please make arrangements for your child to be collected by 2p.m. - (No coaches for INFANT school children on this afternoon).**

**Christmas Nativity Tickets**

Please remember to keep your Nativity tickets safe as they **will not** be re-issued and **you will need them to gain entry.**

**YEAR 1 & YEAR 2**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE help your child learn their lines for the Nativity if they are a Narrator and to speak loudly. Thank you

**All Bookbags and school books will remain in school until after the Christmas holidays. PLEASE BRING INTO SCHOOL A 'BAG FOR LIFE' FOR THE CHILDREN TO TAKE HOME THEIR CHRISTMAS ITEMS**

**Attendance League - Autumn Term**

**(Monday 5th Sept. - Thursday 15th Dec.) inclusive**

Congratulations to Class 5 who are the winners of the Attendance award for this term. Well done to them. We have also published the number of late arrivals per class this term. All children with a 100% attendance and 100% punctuality this term (5th Sep. to 15th Dec. inclusive) will receive a sticker, a treat and a special mention in the newsletter next week.

Class	%	No. of Lates
5	98.44	35
6	97.92	39
7	97.78	62
3	97.53	19
9	96.85	29
8	96.52	27
2	96.26	22
1	96.06	8
4	96.06	78

**Nativities**

Year 1 (Classes 4,5,6) - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 2.00p.m.  
Year 2 (Classes 7,8,9) - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 2.00p.m.



On the day of your child's Nativity, you will have the opportunity to buy a CD containing a variety of photos from your child's Year Group Nativity costing £2. Please note this is not a DVD. However, this year we do expect to provide a DVD at a cost of £5. Buy both for £6. Pre-orders will be greatly appreciated (send money in an envelope marked 'Nativity CD/DVD', child's name and class)

- On each of the days above, the barrier to the Car Park will open at 1.20pm. The Main door to the school will open at 1.40pm. Performance will start at 2.00pm. prompt.
- Entrance is by ticket only - (see note above). However think carefully about bringing pre-school children as it may be difficult for them to remain quiet. Please remember these are very reverent, quiet and peaceful occasions. Our children work hard to prepare the nativities and are also very easily distracted by noise.
- DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OR 'FILM' during the Nativity as this distraction impacts on the reverence of the occasion and also can block other parents view. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN YOU USE AN iPhone, iPad, Tablet OR FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY.**
- At the end of the Nativity, the children will return to their classroom to change back into their school uniform. You then exit via the back of the hall and around to the outside classroom door where you can pick up your child and take them home.
- You will also be able to taken home any siblings that are at the Infant school.

STARS OF THE WEEK	
Alfred Arkins	Class 7
Cooper Thomson	Class 8
Fin Hayzer	Class 9

WORKERS OF THE WEEK		
Class 7	Bryce Holland	& Beatrice O'Flynn-Iffland
Class 8	Noah Johnson	& Leja Tamulaitye
Class 9	Rosemarie Abdel-Malek	& Ralph Clark

**KITCHEN CORNER - Menu Week 2 - Monday 19th December**  
 Please remember your child's Packed Lunch on Wednesday 21st December as the kitchen will not be able to cater for anyone who has not requested a school packed lunch.

*Well Done to St. Bernadette's House for being this week's winner.*

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House	This Weeks Points	Accumulative Points
St. Bernadette	*** 65***	699
St. Clare	52	659
St. Francis	50	595
St. Martin	52	590

**After School Clubs - Year 2**  
 There are a few places left on Multi Skills and Karate After School Clubs starting January. If your child is interested in one of these clubs, please let the office know next week. Thank you.

*Congratulations to St. Bernadette's House for being the overall House Group winners for this Autumn Term 2016.*

Please bring in the payment and home time arrangement slips as soon as possible or at the beginning of the new term on Friday 6th January, 2017. Clubs start the week commencing Tuesday 17th January 2017.

P.E. STARS OF THE WEEK	
Tate Curtin	Class 4
Harry Howell	Class 5
Millie Higgins	Class 6

P.E. STARS OF THE WEEK	
Samuel Irvine	Class 7
Stanley Churchill	Class 8
Ashi Sinha	Class 9

## PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON FRIDAY 6th JANUARY 2017

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, the School Council are holding a Toy Sale in aid of The Marillac, in Brentwood, which is run by The Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. The School Council would appreciate any old toys which could be donated to raise money for this great cause. If you have any toys that you no longer want and would like to donate them to the School Council, could you please bring them on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. Please ensure that any toys which are donated are complete and not broken. Thank you for your continued support. From the School Council.

Last Friday's Christmas Fun Day at the Infants was a fabulous day, chocolates, treats, toys & teddies were won and Santa came to visit! The children had a great time. A big thank you to Nicole Wheatley for taking the reins while I was in hospital, the hard working PA and parent helpers who did an amazing job ensuring the day ran smoothly and of course to Santa who took time out to speak to over 600 children! Thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas activities over the last few weeks, for sending in donations, buying Christmas Cards and hamper raffle tickets. A huge thank you to the parent helpers, Heads, teachers, office staff and caretakers who helped at the Shopping Event and Christmas Fun Day. I know this time of year is extremely busy and expensive for everyone, we really appreciate your time and generosity. The Hamper Raffle draw will take place at both schools on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December and winners will be notified to collect their prizes via the Schools. Lastly, a huge thank you to the extremely dedicated PA team who have worked so hard over the past few months to make our Christmas Events a success and special for our children. Many thanks for all your kind get well messages, I am out of hospital and recovering well. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
 Nina Bailey  
 St Helen's PA Chair

DIARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016 - 2017					
19 Dec	Mon	2p.m	Christmas Nativity - Year 1	Year 1	Parents of Year 1 welcome
20 Dec	Tue	2p.m	Christmas Nativity - Year 2	Year 2	Parents of Year 2 welcome
21 Dec	Wed	1.15p.m	Whole School Blessing SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2 p.m.	All Years	All Welcome. <b>No coaches taking children home from the INFANT school on this day. All children MUST be collected by 2pm.</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec to Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Jan (inclusive)</b>					
5 Jan	Thurs	All Day	INSET DAY	All Years	School Closed to Children
6 Jan	Fri	Open at 8.45a.m	Children Return to School	All Years	ALL YEARS
6 Jan	Fri	9.00am	'Drop Off, Drop In'	All Years	All Parents/Grandparents Welcome
12 Jan	Thurs	3.30pm - 3.45pm	Book Look	All Years	Please make an appointment