

Headteacher's Update – 13.12.24

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final headteacher's update for the term, and indeed of 2024. Remember **we break up for the Christmas holiday on Thursday 19th December at 12pm**. Please make sure you are on time picking up your child on that day and that the school is aware of any alternative collection arrangements in plenty of time.

Christmas Shows

I hope you all had a wonderful time at the various Christmas shows this week. Nursery, Reception and KS1 children all did an amazing job and really spread the Christmas spirit with their singing and acting.

Thank you to all the staff who make this possible and also to everyone who bought a raffle ticket. We raised almost £250 pounds for the PTA, which in turn benefits all the children at our school.

We look forward to welcoming the parents of KS2 next week for the year group assemblies in school, and to seeing the Y6 parents at St Clare's Church for the carol service on Tuesday 17th December at 2pm.

Please note: you do not need to book places for the KS2 shows but we ask that no more than 2 people attend per family.

KS2 Choir – Lakeside Care Home

I was unable to attend the KS1 play on Thursday afternoon as I was accompanying a selection of children from the KS2 Choir to sing at the Lakeside Care Home. They sang so beautifully to the residents there, and it was moving to see the different generations chatting at the end together. I was very proud of everyone; their behaviour, manners and singing were a credit to the school.



KS2 Choir – singing to parents on the playground on the last day of term

The whole KS2 choir will be singing to the rest of the school at the assembly on the last day of term. As you know, our hall is simply not big enough to have all the parents and children inside, but we would love for the parents of the children in choir (and indeed all parents) to be able to hear them as they have practised the songs so well and we think they sound wonderful.

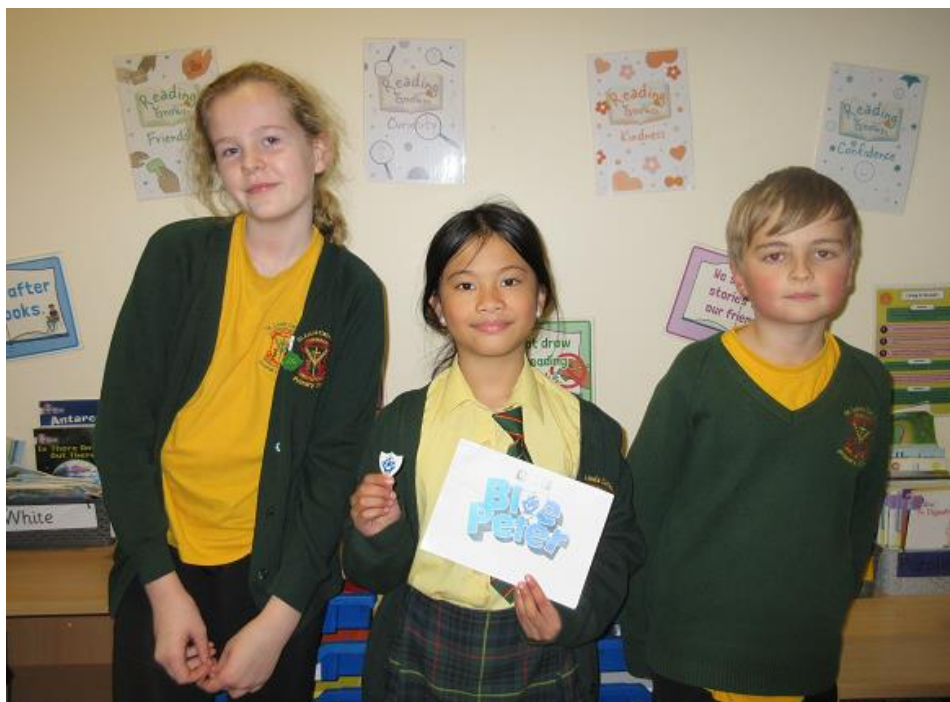
Therefore, on Thursday 19th December, we will open the gates at 11.35am and the choir will perform on the **front playground at 11.40am**. We'd love for you to come and listen. The children will then return to class ready to be dismissed at 12pm.

Reconciliation

Last Friday in school we had a special reconciliation service, where we spoke about forgiveness, heard scripture from the Bible, said prayers together and sang some hymns. All children went back to class to write something down that they were sorry for and wanted forgiveness for. Children in Year 6 were then offered the opportunity to speak to Fr John about what they had written down or to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. It was lovely to see how many children wanted to visit Fr John and he said afterwards how prayerful and respectful the children had been who he met with. He also commented on how smart all the children were dressed and said it was clear how much parents at St Louis care for their children. As we did not get through all the children that wanted to visit in other year groups, Fr John has kindly agreed to visit again in the new year, so that everyone will get this opportunity. Please take the opportunity to discuss with your child what they wrote down that they were sorry for and remind your child that as long as we are truly sorry for what we did, then God, our friends and our families will always forgive us.

Pupil Achievements

Well done to Valerie in 4L who made a poster and sent it to Blue Peter. They were so impressed they sent her a Blue Peter badge in return. Here is a picture of her with Darcy and Beau, her house and vice captains for Milton who congratulated her on her achievement.





Well done to Sienna in 2L and Scarlett in 4S who both participated in a Christmas show at Aylesbury Vale Academy last weekend, titled "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." I have heard that Scarlett and Sienna delivered outstanding performances in both ballet and tap dance. They displayed their talents in two shows on Saturday and another show on Sunday and I am sure their dedication and skill shone through.

Staffing News

Mrs Riley, who has worked at St Louis for over 20 years, has decided the time is right to retire. She has helped so many children in her time here, including my own children when they were pupils. They still remember her fondly, including for her tomato soup and jacket potatoes on orienteering trips to Wendover Woods. We are very sorry to see Mrs Riley go, but wish her all the best for her retirement. Knowing her, she will find plenty of things to do to keep herself busy, but we hope she will find time to pop in and see us now and again to say hello.

Mrs Chivers, our nursery manager will also be leaving us at Christmas. We want to thank her for all the amazing work she has done to establish our wonderful nursery, and we wish her all the best for the future.

Finally, Miss Goulding has also decided to move on at the end of term. Again, Miss Goulding has done a fantastic job as an inspirational teacher during her time with us, and we wish her well as she decides on the next step in her career.

Pantomime fun

The children had a brilliant time at the pantomime today. Thank you to everyone who has donated the £2 so far. If you haven't yet, there is still time. It is such a treat for them to be able to enjoy the festive season in this way, and hopefully this may become an annual event.



Following the work to modernise and develop the Reception and KS1 area of the school, we commissioned some window art displaying our mission statement to the new corridor area. They looked so lovely one evening with the light shining through that I thought I would share a picture with you.



Thank you for your continued support this term – with the children and staff you make the St Louis school community a special one to belong to. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis

Nursery



We have been learning: about different types of emotions and how we may feel in different situations.

You can help at home by: discussing with your child about how they can work through each emotion

Reception

We have been learning: songs and poems for our Christmas Show. We hope you enjoyed watching it.

You can help at home by: asking your child to sing the songs and the poems to you.

Year 1

We have been learning: about money.

You can help at home by: helping your child to recognise different coins and show them how to use the coins to make different amounts.

Year 2

We have been learning: how wheels and axels work.

You can help at home by: asking your child what they have learnt and what they can remember.

Year 3

We have been learning: about what the Advent Wreath represents.

You can help at home by: asking your child what the five candles on the Advent Wreath represent.

Year 4

We have been learning: about every day appliances and how they work.

You can help at home by: asking what book we are reading as part of English.

Year 5

We have been learning: about the story of the Nativity.

You can help at home by: asking your child about Joseph's beliefs and values according to Matthew 1:18-25.

Year 6

We have been learning: about the story 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies.

You can help at home by: asking your child what will happen in their sequel to the story.