

Headteacher's Update – 29.11.24

Dear Parents,

It's been a cold and frosty week which seems appropriate as we head into Advent this weekend.

Advent

Advent starts right at the beginning of December this year. It's a special time of year and more than just the 'busy run up to Christmas'. Why not take some time, amongst all the busyness, preparations and celebrations that anticipate the coming of Jesus, to pause, reflect and get ready to welcome Jesus with open minds, open hearts and open lives.



Please follow the link for more information and ideas in the Ten:Ten newsletter for parents <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

All the children will have received a CAFOD Advent prayer card to take home with them today. Please look at this alongside your child and use it to help you pray if you feel it would be helpful. You will also see attached this update, an advent calendar that you can use with your child at home.

Christmas Charity Appeal – pupil led paperchain challenge

Some of our pupils have been thinking about how they can share God's love and have asked me if they can raise funds for those less fortunate than themselves. Emma, Hattie, Aiden, Kendi and Alessia shared during assembly today their plans to create a Christmas paperchain to decorate the hall during Advent. Children across the school are invited to donate any change they may have available, ie 5p, 10p, 20p or 50p and in exchange they decorate a strip of paper with their name and a picture. The team will then stick them together and we will see how far around the hall we can get the paperchain to go.

The paperchain challenge will begin on Monday 2nd December and continue until the end of term. Children can give their money to their teacher who will write their names on a list. They will then go to decorate their strips when the team come to their class.

The money raised will go to CAFOD and the Our Lady of Lourdes appeal in aid of Missionaries of the Poor (MoP)

Thank you for any support you are able to provide. I have spoken to the children about how Christmas can be a difficult time for our families too, and we are aware we are also promoting the Diocesan appeal 'Love Christmas'. Please only donate if you are able to and we appreciate anything you can offer.



Christmas Dinner

A reminder that if you would like to book a Christmas dinner for your child on 11th December, then this can be ordered through the IFG app as stated in an earlier email.

Pantomime and Christmas Jumper day

We are very excited to be welcoming a drama company to perform Jack and The Beanstalk pantomime for the school on 13th December. This is to let you know that children can wear mufti with a Christmas jumper on this day (no payment for the mufti, just a £2 contribution to cover the cost of the pantomime). The reason we do not ask for jumpers to be worn on National Christmas jumper day (12th December) is because this is in aid of charity, and as stated above, we are already supporting several charities this Advent and Christmas time.



Bedtime Stories

Thank you to everyone who came to the bedtime story sessions last week. The rooms looked really cosy and the children and staff looked ready for bed in their pyjamas. I hope this delightful event was a good opportunity to enjoy a story alongside your child. Maybe you came away with a few new titles for your own bedtime story sessions at home. Please know, that if you ever struggle to get books to share at home, then do join a library or speak to a member of staff about borrowing books from the school library. Remember all children get to choose and take home a library book each week.



Reception - Superheroes

The children in Reception have been learning about superheroes and this week they were lucky enough to meet some real life superheroes.

They have learnt about the role of the School Crossing Patrollers (lollypop men) and how to cross the road safely. They also had a special visit from a Policeman and even got to try on some of the uniforms.



PTA

I hope by the time you have read this, you have been able to support the Christmas bazaar organised by the PTA – thank you for your support in our fundraising efforts. I cannot thank Nathalie and her core team of members enough for all they do for the school and for the staff who stayed after school to run the stalls.

I know there are those among you who would prefer a bazaar to be held at a weekend. However, this is not possible for members of the PTA who work during the week and who have other weekend commitments, and the same is true of staff, especially at this time of year. Events such as this take a huge amount of organisation and require helpers, including staff, to be on site all day, opening the school site, setting up, manning stalls, providing first aid, tidying up and locking up safely. With the current numbers attending PTA meetings, this is simply not feasible.

Please also remember that the chair of the PTA gives up their time to help support the fundraising efforts of the school. They are not the point of contact for issues you may wish to discuss from the school uniform policy to the level of homework your child receives. If you have a concern, then please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance and only contact the Chair of the PTA if you have support to give. This will ensure that people want to take on the role – they do so to enjoy the difference they make to the facilities and opportunities we can provide for the children of St Louis and we wish for this to continue.

Enjoy the weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis



Nursery

We have been learning: through actions, the different phrases within our storybook 'Were going on a bear hunt'

You can help at home by: using these phrases to narrate your weekend walks, 'long wavy grass'

Reception

We have been learning: about real life superheroes.

You can help at home by: asking your child to draw a picture of their favourite real life superhero e.g. vet, police

Year 1

We have been learning: to find half of a shape and an amount.

You can help at home by: using the word 'half' when you are slicing up food.

Year 2

We have been learning: how to write a persuasive letter in our English lesson.

You can help at home by: asking your child to persuade you which endangered animal needs to be saved.

Year 3

We have been learning: about how light reflects off mirrors.

You can help at home by: asking your child to explain how light reflects off mirrors.

Year 4

We have been learning: about time zones in geography.

You can help at home by: asking what a time zone is.

Year 5

We have been learning: to write our own epic tale.

You can help at home by: discussing our plan and the trials our hero will face.

Year 6

We have been learning: about WW2 propaganda posters.

You can help at home by: asking your child what WW2 scenario they based their poster on and how they made it persuasive.

