



St. Philip's Newsletter

11th December 2015, Term 2, Week 6



Dear St Philip's Families,

It has been a busy two weeks in school as we approach Christmas.

Year 6 led us beautifully in our Advent Liturgy to mark the start of this special season in the year of the church. After the Liturgy, each child was given an Advent calendar to take home, please do share the reflections on this calendar with your child.

The Local Authority completed their Safeguarding audit of the school this week and were pleased with the progress the school has made. It is great to have this external validation that, at St Philip's, we work hard to keep our children safe and I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment.

Year 6 took part in the 'Big Sing' at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells with other East Sussex schools. They performed brilliantly and really enjoyed themselves. They were a credit to our school. Well done Year 6 and thank you to Mrs Best and Mrs Bellamy who made this possible.

Our Reconciliation service last week was beautiful. It was wonderful to see the dark church being lit by the children's candles and to watch the wreath of their promises come to life. Father Stephen commented on how comfortable the children are with stillness since we started our meditation this year. Many children also took the opportunity of receiving the sacrament of reconciliation in school after the service.

The school council decorated our Christmas tree at Holy Cross Church, with decorations the children had made. The tree is now in the school hall. The children also enjoyed singing carols in the High Street. Thank you to Mrs Best and Mrs Nolan for accompanying them and Mrs Bedwell for organising the tree.

The Friends have been exceptionally busy and I really don't know how they manage to do it all. After a successful disco with fireworks, which was greatly enjoyed by all the children, they have also managed to organise a wonderful Wreath making evening and a great Christmas Fair in conjunction with the Parish. This was a popular event, enjoyed by young and old alike. Many

great prizes were won and Isla in Y5 even got to be Head for the day, ringing the school bell, having her lunch at a top table and accompanying me on a learning walk.

KS1 have been very busy taking part in two Multiskills events this week. Year 2 enjoyed their trip to UCTC on Tuesday and both Year 1 and 2 got to take part in another Multiskills event in school on Thursday. Thanks to Mrs Hughes and the parents who helped walk the children to UCTC on Tuesday. It would be impossible to do these events without your support.

On Tuesday Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors at St Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

On Wednesday Mrs Wilding and I attended an event to mark the beginning of the Catholic Year of Mercy. Part of this day was a talk by Barry and Margaret Mizen, who have forgiven the man who murdered their son in 2008. For the Year of Mercy, a Holy Door will be opened in every Catholic cathedral in the world for the first time. The doors will be opened on Sunday 13th December, to coincide with the opening of the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of St John Lateran. During this year we will be considering how we can take on the role of the Good Samaritan and show mercy to others.

Next week is a very busy week in school. We have our Nativities and our Christmas lunch. Do please check the diary dates to make sure you don't miss anything.

With very best wishes for a lovely Christmas.

Joanna Sanchez

Car Park

We have noticed lots of inconsiderate parking, in the car park. Please be aware that the car park at the front does not belong to the school. The Church kindly let us use this car park to help our families. However, if people continue to double park and to misuse disabled bays, this arrangement may be reviewed. Do remember that it is also possible to park in the Victoria Pleasure Ground car park and walk along the path for less than a minute to reach the school.

Crossing Patrol

There will be no crossing patrol on Wednesday 16th in the morning.

Next term

Please remember that the first day of school is **Tuesday 5th January 2016**.

PE and break time

If children are in school they are expected to take part in PE lessons and go out for break, unless there is a valid medical reason for them to stay indoors.

Uniform

The Governors have agreed to make a change to our summer uniform. We will be changing our white polo shirts to green ones with a school logo. This will bring us into line with other local schools and will look a lot smarter after several washes! As Year 6 will be leaving not long after we go into summer uniform, they can choose to continue to wear their existing polo shirts, if it is more convenient. The new polo shirts will be available from the school office shortly after Christmas.

Christmas Lunch for the Children Thursday 17th

If you have ticked that you will pay for the Christmas lunch by ParentPay please check your account is in credit.

Change to Menu

Choices for Wednesday 16th will be those on the menu for Thursday 17th.

KS1 Nativity

There will be no crèche for pre-school children during the KS1 Nativity presentations next week due to our inability to provide a preschool first aider on site.

You are more than welcome to bring your younger children to the presentations in the Church with you. The Infant children have practised ever so hard for the Nativity, so if your younger children become unsettled during the presentation, we would kindly ask you to take your child into the Narthex at the back of the Church.

Plimsolls

All KS1 children will need to wear their PE plimsolls for the Nativity. Please could you make sure that your child's plimsolls are at school next week and check that they are still of the appropriate size.

Congratulations to

Oscar in Year 4 for winning this medal in a national karate competition.

Diary Dates

December	
Mon 14th	KS1 Dress rehearsal 11.00
Tues 15 th	KS1 Christmas play 2.00 in the church – parents welcome to attend
Weds 15 th	KS1 Christmas play 2.00 in the church – parents welcome to attend
Thurs 17th	Christmas Lunch
Thurs 17 th	KS2 Dress rehearsal 11.00 KS2 Christmas Play 6.30 at St Philip's church– parents welcome to attend
Fri 18 th	Carol service followed by mince pies 2.00 at church – parents welcome to attend
January	
Tues 5 th	First Day of term 9.00 Epiphany Assesmbly - parents welcome to attend
Febraury	
Tues 9 th	3.30 – 6.00 Parents Evening
Weds 10th	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Thurs 11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes Liturgy led by Y5- parents welcome to attend 5.15 – 7.30 Parents Evening
Date tbc	Lent Penitential Service
March	
Mon 21st	Palm Sunday Liturgy led by KS1 - parents welcome to attend
Thurs 24th	Stations of the Cross led by Y6 - parents welcome to attend
July	
Thurs 21 st	INSET day – no children in school
Fri 22nd	INSET day – no children in school