



Our Lady and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Windmill Hill, Cubbington, Leamington Spa, CV32 7LN

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Aspire, Achieve, Learn and Love as one family in Christ

Newsletter – 24th November 2017

This week has been absolutely lovely in school, we began the week with a beautiful Advent assembly and we were able to decorate our tree and switch on the lights which was magical. I would like to say a huge thank you to our PTA who have donated our Christmas tree this year and it really is a beauty. It looks absolutely amazing in our hall now it is full of the children's decorations and really adds to the festive spirit. I would also like to thank all of the parents/cares/families who came into school last Friday to support our Advent Activity Afternoon and help us get our school ready for this wonderful season. It was great to see so many of you in working alongside your children, I'm just so glad I had enough mince pies for everyone! Don't forget it is our Christmas Fair in school tomorrow with the children singing carols at 11am.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Suzie Wilson - Head Teacher

Christmas Fair



Tomorrow is our school Christmas Fair and we would love to have as much support as possible on the day. There will be lots of festive activities for all the family to really get you in the Christmas spirit. The fair is being held from 11am – 2pm and some of our wonderful children will be singing Christmas Carols at 11am to start us all off in the best way. Come on down – it is sure to be a wonderfully festive day.



Picture provided by the manufacturer

Sacraments

Preparation for both Holy Communion and Confirmation will be done in school this year. If you would like your child to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year please ensure you let school know and bring a cop of your child's baptismal certificate in to school for us. We have already had our first meeting for our Communion children and the first Confirmation meeting will be in January.

Key Diary Dates

Saturday December 9th – School Christmas Fair 11am – 2pm
Sunday December 10th – 5.30pm Singing at the Cubbington Christmas Lights in the village.
Tuesday December 12th 9.30am– Reception Nativity with Butterflies nursery
Thursday December 14th – KS1 Nativity Play 2.30pm
Thursday December 14th 7.30pm – Children to sing at the Cubbington Christmas Civic Service at St Mary's Church.
Friday December 15th – KS1 Nativity Play 10am
Tuesday December 19th – KS2 Carol Service 6pm in church
Friday December 22nd – Christmas Mass 2pm in school.

Primary Admissions

If you have a child whose birthday falls between 01.09.2013 and 31.08.2014 you need to apply now for a primary school place for your child in September 2018. Apply online at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>
Closing date for applications is 15th January 2018. We are a Catholic School but welcome all who are sympathetic to our ethos – please take a closer look at our admissions policy on our website for further details.

Attendance

Our attendance target is 96%

Reception – 94.7%

Yr1 – 94.8%

Yr2 – 97.9%

Yr3 – 95.9%

Yr4 – 93.7%

Yr5 – 96.9%

Yr6 – 98%

Whole school – 96%

Whole school since September – 95.4%



There is cold weather and snow forecast over the weekend so I wanted to remind everyone where information about school closures can be found. I will make the decision on whether to open school based on the safety of the site, heating and hot meals in place and the ability for staff and pupils to travel into school safely. Should school be closed due to inclement weather I will update our school website and put a message out on Twitter. You can also check the council school closures website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures and the council Twitter @wccschoolclosed

If you go on to the council school closures website you can also sign up to receive text message alerts from them about school closures.



Reading

We take reading very seriously here in school; it is a key priority for us. Reading is a life skill and one that most of us, as adults, probably take for granted – we read without even thinking about it. Reading is an essential skill to enable us to get on in life, as a child grows up; being able to read well not only enables them to discover new facts and to learn at school, but also opens them up to a world of new ideas, stories and opportunities. Children who cannot read well at the end of primary school are less likely to succeed in secondary school and, in adulthood, are likely to earn less than their peers. We have taken away regular homework on worksheets and have instead placed all of our emphasis on reading along with termly topic projects. As the first educators of children we need parents/carers to join us in our mission to ensure that all children at Our Lady & St Teresa's leave primary with excellent reading skills and therefore the best possible future life chances. We expect children to read every single day at home and for an adult to hear them read and offer guidance or ask them a few comprehension questions, we then expect this recorded in their reading diary by the adult. We don't feel that this is unreasonable but lately we have encountered lots of excuses as to why this is not happening and even some considerable rudeness towards staff when they have reiterated the need to read at home every night. Please can you support us and your children in this by reading at home each day and recording in the school diary. Thank you.

ADVENT

We are now in the special season of Advent and we are preparing ourselves and our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Last Friday the children worked alongside some special helpers to create their class Advent wreaths and we lit our first candle, the candle of hope, in Monday's Advent assembly which was a really beautiful way to begin the week and this important season. We also reflected on what the season of Advent is for and how we can try and be ready for Him. We blessed our wreaths and our beautiful Christmas tree which had been decorated by the children. The children will continue to begin each day with Advent prayer and the lighting of their class wreaths as we journey through Advent towards Christmas.



School Crossing

Our wonderful school crossing lady Nicky, who has worked at our school for a long time was involved in an accident last week which could have been very serious. Nicky's attention was drawn by a child who stepped into the road and Nicky reacted to try and ensure the child was not hurt but in turn was hurt herself. Please can I ask that young children are supervised carefully near the roads and the crossing and that everyone waits until Nicky calls you to cross before stepping into the road.



A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies.
The man who never reads lives only one.

