



## Mount Carmel RC Primary Newsletter

*Truth, Love, Life to The Full*

### Autumn Week 12- 1/12/23

#### Message from the Headteacher

I can't quite believe we are now in the month of December! This year, the season of Advent falls wholly in the month of December! It's a time of busyness at home and at school with plenty to enjoy; nativity plays and carol services, lights and decorations, plans to visit friends and family. It can sometimes be easy amongst all the fun and excitement to forget what Advent is really about - a time to pause, reflect, and get ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts.

This morning, our Year 1 children helped us to reflect and understand the real meaning of Christmas as they led the most beautiful Advent assembly. This time of preparation for Christmas is most important to us and during Advent, in our school's collective worship we will be a 'Witness to the Light' and encourage children to get themselves ready to respond, share and worship the birth of Jesus.



During the season of Advent, children will come home with a 'Travelling Nativity'; a tradition that has been taking place in the Infant Department for many years and this year will extend to the Junior Department. The travelling nativity is to help us remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to

Bethlehem and, as a family, take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas. Please take some time to set this up with your child, light the (electric) candle, write in the book and then return it to school the following day, ready for another child to take home. Perhaps you would like to include this prayer within your family prayer time.

*Father God, thank you for sending us the Holy Family to show us how to know and share Your love.*

*Help me to be like Mary – ready to say ‘Yes!’ to you God.*

*Help me to be like Joseph – kind, obedient and full of courage.*

*Jesus, guide me to follow in your loving ways.*

*Amen.*

Follow this link for a special Advent performance from Y1

<https://www.mountcarmel.manchester.sch.uk/blog/follow-that-star/86595>

With love and prayers,

Mrs Seaborn

### In the Curriculum

This week Y5 have taken part in ‘Bikeability’. This cycle training programme equips children with the skills, knowledge and understanding to cycle on the roads.



Reception have been reading the story of the ‘Scarecrows Wedding’ by Julia Donaldson. This week they have sequenced the story, made scarecrows and hats for the wedding, painted flowers from the story and they have been on a scavenger hunt searching for items from the story. What a busy week!



Thanks to the parents who joined us at the Phonics Workshop on Thursday night. We hope you found it useful. Please follow this link for more resources, videos and information.

<https://www.mountcarmel.manchester.sch.uk/page/phonics-and-early-reading/109078>

### **Junior Pantomime**

On Monday, years 3-6 will visit Middleton Arena to see the pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk.' Junior children can bring a small bag of sweets and a non-fizzy drink on this day to take to the theatre.

### **PTA Meeting**

We are now looking for members to join the PTA. We need more members to keep the PTA going. We will be holding a meeting for the PTA on Monday 4th December at 5:00pm to discuss events for the school year ahead. If you feel you can help or contribute in any way, please join us for this meeting. The PTA needs you and we look forward to meeting some new PTA friends.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Workshop**

On Thursday 7th December, we have invited a representative from Healthy Schools to hold a short workshop exploring children's mental health and wellbeing. If you have concerns around your child's behaviour at home, their anxiety levels or just want to know more, please come along.

The session will start at 9am in the Infant Hall and will last around an hour. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

### **SEND Drop In**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, our SENDCo, Mrs Watson, will be available to speak to any parents regarding any questions and offer advice around special educational needs and disability issues. This drop-in will be held in the morning between 9- 12am at the Junior Department. Parents can attend from either building. If you would like an appointment, please book through the offices. Apologies for the incorrect date on last week's newsletter.

### **Christmas Holiday Activities (children eligible for benefits-related free school meals)**

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching. MCRactive and Manchester City Council are offering thousands of FREE places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Activities will

range from Sport and Physical Activities, Arts and Crafts and much more. In addition to the activities, their booked place will include a FREE meal during the day.

For more information & to book your child's space\*: You will need to sign up for an MCRactive Go account <https://www.mcractive.com/> (sign in) to book free Christmas holiday activities. Once signed up, log into your account – Find Activities – Search by Category 'MCR Holiday Activity' - Use code: 99765 to book free eligible activities. Please also visit <https://loadstodo.co.uk/> to view additional FREE holiday activities and other opportunities taking place across the city.

\*Please only book your child onto a holiday camp if they will be attending. Spaces at each camp are limited. If you book a space and your child can no longer attend, please cancel your space as far in advance as possible, to allow the opportunity for another child to take their space at the activity and free meal.

### **Friday 8th December -Christmas Jumper Day**



We are inviting children to wear a Christmas jumper or wear something red and Christmassy. On this day, we would like to support the 'Bee There Christmas Campaign' for Caritas and would be grateful if children could bring a £1 donation this day. For more information about this campaign follow this link <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/will-you-bee-there-this-christmas/>

If you have any old Christmas jumpers you would like to donate, please hand into the school office.

### **Donations for the Big Sleep In**

On Friday 8th December, a group of Year 5 and 6 children (from groups including the School Council and GIFT Team) will be taking part in 'The Big Sleep In'. Whilst in school, they will be putting together gift hampers which will be distributed to homeless people across Manchester. If you are able, we would really appreciate any donations which can be added to these gift hampers. We are looking for the following items: soap, shower gel, shampoo, toothbrush, hairbrush, toothpaste, chocolate bar, biscuits, chewing gum, deodorant, tissues, socks, gloves, hat, scarf, hair bobbles, book. Thank you.

### **KS2 Christmas Music Afternoon**

Parents and carers of KS2 children please join us for a Christmas musical afternoon on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Hot drinks and mince pies will be served. Please see timetable of performances if you want to pop in.

Year Group	Time
Y6B	1:00-1:15
Y4L	1:15-1:30
Y5W	1:30-1:45
Y3R	1:45-2:00
Y6C	2:00-2:15
Y5H	2:15-2:30
Y4S	2:30-2:45
Y3D	2:45-3:00
KS2 choir	3:00-3:15

## EYFS Nativity Performance

Nursery and Reception will now have separate nativity shows/ performances. Please see below the times for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Parents welcome.

Nursery Performance 9:15am Nursery Classroom

Reception Performance 2:30pm Infant Hall

## Virtues and Values

This term we are growing to be Intentional and Prophetic. We will be promoting these values in school through our collective worship and in discussions with the children. Each week a child in each class will be chosen for a special certificate for using these values and will have afternoon tea with Mrs Seaborn.

*“Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and prophetic in the example they set to others.”*

## Attendance for the Week

Every day counts! We will be holding a KS2 raffle each half term for children who achieve 100% attendance during that half term. The prize for this half term is cinema gift vouchers.

Nursery	89.5%	Year 3D	99%
Reception S	95%	Year 3R	96.3%
Reception J	87%	Year 4L	93.7%
Year 1B	98.3%	Year 4S	95.7%
Year 1L	92.5%	Year 5H	97.4%
Year 2C	92.3%	Year 5W	96.9%
Year 2G	97.7%	Year 6B	95.3%
		Year 6C	97%

## Dates for the Dairy

4/12/23	<u>Junior Pantomime</u> Years 3-6 to visit Middleton Arena to see the Pantomime 'Jack & the Beanstalk.'
7/12/23	<u>Parental Workshop – 'Supporting your Child's Mental Health'</u> 9am Infant Hall- All Welcome
8/12/23	<u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> £1 donation for Caritas
8/12/23	<u>Big Sleep Out</u> GIFT team will be invited to take part in the Big Sleep Out- more information will follow.
12/12/23	<u>Y6 Visit the Christmas Markets</u>
13/12/23	<u>SEND Parent Drop in @Junior Department 9am- 12pm (CHANGE OF DATE )</u> If you would like to meet with Mrs Watson please call the office for an appointment. Parents from Nursery- Year 6 welcome
13/12/23	<u>Infant Pantomime</u> Reception- Y2 'Sleeping Beauty' will be performed by a Theatre Group coming in to school
14/12/23	<u>Christmas Music Afternoon</u> KS2 parents please join us for an afternoon of Christmas music. Mince pies and hot drinks provided.
19/12/23	<u>(Nursery and Reception) Nativity Performance. (Parents Welcome)</u>  Nursery Performance 9:15am Nursery Classroom Reception Performance 2:30pm Infant Hall

19/12/23	<u>Christmas Dinner Day- Please pay on school grid</u>
20/12/23	<u>Christmas Party Day- Please wear party clothes. Christmas party dinner available on school grid.</u>
22/12/23	<u>Year 2 Nativity Performance - Y2 Parents Welcome. 9am Infant Hall.</u>
22/12/23	<u>School closes for Christmas at 1:30pm</u>