



NEWSLETTER

12th November 2021



Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School

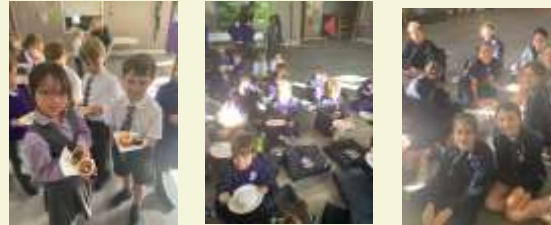
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'A child helped by another child is like a strong city'

Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School
Nightingale Square
London
SW12 8QJ

Dear Parents,

Half-term feels like a long way off, and the weeks are passing very quickly. Advent and Christmas will soon be upon us, and the first term will be complete. Please keep an eye on the diary for upcoming events. Dates for the class Masses and end of year concerts are now available. We are extremely busy in school, with some end of term tests planned in a couple of weeks' time, alongside the concerts, the Nativity, and the usual festive favourites. We are delighted to share the work of the Parish "Acts of Kindness" with you. These appear at the end of the newsletter, and are testimony to the generosity and good will of this community.



We loved our cake sale – thank you PTA.

Children

We hope you are all well, and that you received the teachers' letters for each class. We also hope you were happy with arrangements for Parents' Evenings, and the outcomes of those discussions for your children. It is always a privilege for us to share in the journey you child takes as a learner, and to work with you to shape some of the experiences, which, in turn, will help them.

As we observe the children at work, and at play, we have much for which to be grateful, and the balancing act for us is setting the healthy ambition for giving the children the best we can give, against the need to accept that their best is good enough. The fulfilment of every child's true potential remains at the heart of our mission as a Catholic school. It is, in so many ways, a gift to be able to recognise that potential.

Our Year 6 children led Open Day this week – and how proud we were to hear them tell prospective parents about their school. We thank them for being such fine ambassadors for Holy Ghost. As well as the academic achievements they enjoy, it was interesting to listen as they spoke from the heart about all they love about their school.

Year Six leading Armistice Day assembly



The Synod

We are delighted to be participating in the Parish's response to the Synod. In each class the children are focussing on one strand of the process, so that their voices are heard, as Pope Francis leads us in the greatest listening exercise of all time – centred around the themes of communion, participation and missionary discipleship. We pray for the success of this phase of the Synod – a time to reflect on our many blessings in this Parish, and an opportunity to present some ideas for the future of our Church. Our children are the future. We have a joint responsibility to nurture their faith and guide them well.



Anti-bullying week

Next week focuses our minds on anti-bullying week, but, of course, we act to eradicate any hints of bullying every day in school. The theme for this year is “One Kind Word”. It is always important to stress the difference between rough play and bullying for the children, and hopefully part of the learning next week is the importance of “telling” a trusted adult in school if any-one makes you feel uncomfortable. The children may wear odd socks to school on Monday to launch the week.

Nativity

In light of Covid, and in the spirit of managing risks to all of us, and especially our more vulnerable adults, we will perform the Nativity at 9.30am on Wednesday 8th December (Reception parents), Thursday 9th December (Year 1 parents) and Friday 10th December (Year 2 parents).

There will be 2 seats available for each family – making it a maximum of 60 adults, alongside children and staff. With 5 families having siblings in Reception and Year 2, and one family having siblings in Year 1 and Year 2, we are happy for those families to choose which performance they prefer. Regrettably, we can only offer **one** performance per family. By performing three times, and assigning a class to a specific day, we are aiming to manage the crowd. We would appreciate it if visiting adults could wear masks.

With all our fingers crossed, we hope that this plan works for the majority. If there are any issues, please let your class-teacher know, not the Office. A note for the attention of the class teacher would help.

Parents' Voice

On Friday 3rd December you will have your opportunity to share your thoughts for the future of our school. We missed the opportunity last year to bring you together to undertake this exercise. This is the time to meet with other parents to provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses you feel we have. This doesn't replace the 1:1s with the class-teachers for ongoing discussions about your child's learning or well-being.

Miss Atkinson

It is with the heaviest heart that I write to tell you that Miss Atkinson has decided to leave us at Christmas. We will be sad to see her go and thank her for the kindness she has shown the children in Year 4, and for her hard work. Mr McGee, who has been working with us from September will teach Year 4 from January. As he is in school each week, the handover will be smooth, including face to face teaching of the children alongside Miss Atkinson before she leaves.



Best wishes and thank you for your ongoing support.

Susan Lawless & team.

Holy Ghost Church Christmas Project

All classes have been busy organising various Acts of Kindness:

- Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 will **donate gift bags** for those in need supporting 6 different charities
- Year 2: will provide **Christmas Hampers to our senior parishioners**
- Year 4: will arrange a **food drive** for the **Dons Local Action Group**
- Year 6: will make **gift boxes** for the Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child**

Additionally, for anyone that wants to support our Parish Fundraising please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holyghostchurch> or order a delicious takeout at **Bobochacha** who are kindly donating 50% of total sales value to the Parish for orders on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th November. The class representatives will circulate details on how to place your order.

Finally, if you are having a pre-Christmas clear-out and have some used children's books to contribute, donations can be left in the Church porch for **The Children's Book Project**.

Contact hgchristmasfair17@gmail.com if you have any questions.

HOLY GHOST PRIMARY - SCHOOL DATES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
NOVEMBER				
15 th November Anti-Bullying week P2B	16 th November	17 th November Y5 & Y1 Mass – 9.30am Y6 IWM Y4 Trumpet	18 th November Y5 Swimming	19 th November P2B
22 nd November Y3 Singing Project Concert – 2pm – in LL via the backgate Y4 Girls Football Festival P2B	23 rd November 9.05am – Second Hand Uniform Sale – back playground.	24 th November Y2 Mass – 9.30am Y4 Trumpet	25 th November Y5 Swimming	26 th November P2B
29 th November Y4 Confession P2B	30 th November			
DECEMBER				
	30 th November	1 st December Y3 Mass – 9.30am Early Morning Band & Y4 Trumpet Concert – details to be confirmed.	2 nd December Y5 Swimming	3 rd December P2B 9am - Parents Consultation Y5 & Y6 Interplanet Netball
6 th December Y6 Confession P2B	7 th December Reception Vision Screening	8 th December Y4 Mass – 9.30am 9.30am – Nativity – Reception	9 th December 9.30am – Nativity – Y1 Y5 Swimming	10 th December 9.30am – Nativity – Y2 Y5 Confession
13 th December P2B	14 th December	15 th December Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day	16 th December Class Christmas Parties and Father Christmas	17 th December Whole school Mass 9.30am END OF TERM

2022	
Date	Event
JANUARY	
4 th January	INSET Day
5 th January	Children return to school
6 th January	Y4 swimming
FEBRUARY	
11 th February	Half Term
21 st February	Inset Day
22 nd February	Children Return to School

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