

ISSUE

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Newsletter

The festive season is in full swing here at Cardinal Newman, and we have been blessed with **wonderful parental support at both KS1 productions and for both Y4/5/6 evening carol services**. Thank you for all your kind comments after the productions – like you, I am immensely proud of the children's confidence and capacity to perform to a packed arena with aplomb, conveying the Christmas story with enthusiasm and excitement. They are each **a great credit to their families and to the school** and we are very proud of them. I am also tremendously appreciative of our wonderful staff team, who have worked so hard to ensure the children understand the true meaning of Christmas and that they have a happy and successful experience of performing in public. We are **truly blessed with such a professional and committed staff team**.

Further plaudits this week go to **our wonderful Parents' Association team**. If you attended the Christmas Fair last Saturday, I am sure you would agree that there was a lovely community atmosphere and a wide range of stalls for adults and children to enjoy. **Thanks to the hard work of our PA, we raised approximately £6000, including over £2000 on the silent auction!** My thanks to everyone for their support and most especially, huge thanks to Lorraine and Krisztina and their whole team for their brilliant organisation and generous commitment of time and energy to make the whole day such a success! We are busy making plans to spend this money to benefit our children and have already agreed **that the Parent Association will give £1,500 to fund some exciting events for Book Week** (Spring Term 2018) including some Shakespeare "Play in a Day" opportunities which will benefit every child in the school. We are looking forward to enjoying the fruits of their labours and further details of Book Week will follow nearer the time!

All good news this week, as **agreement has now been reached on our School Minibus project**. The Parents' Association has agreed to use the proceeds from the previous Summer Balls to fund **half of the new minibus**. Our thanks go to the **Ball Committees** for their enormous energy and enthusiasm to raise this very substantial amount of money through many months of hard planning and organising. We hope they will be delighted to see a tangible benefit to the school – a minibus in return for all that hard work!

Our school governors have also voted to use the **"Governors' Fund" to fund half of the new minibus**. Here, our thanks go to you, the parents, as **the Governors' Fund is entirely dependent on parental donations**. Catholic schools are traditionally "Voluntary Aided" (VA) which means that 10% of the funding comes from parental donations, rather than from the government. As we are now an "Academy" school in the Xavier Catholic Education Trust, we no longer have the tag "VA" but are still **required to fund at least 10% of capital projects** and therefore the Governors' Fund is as important as ever for the families of Cardinal Newman School.

Following the minibus, the governors' priorities are to fund **renewal of some classroom IT (interactive whiteboards and classroom computers/laptops) and to raise 10% of a proposed building project for the school hall**. If you do not already contribute to this important fund, **please fill in the form today as these small monthly donations really do add up to make a big difference** for the children in our school.

Next week, we are looking forward to the Y3 Christmas concert and to Christmas parties galore! Before that though, as in previous weeks, there will be the **Advent Reflection with Fr Bill in the hall on Monday morning at 8:15am**. This week, we will light the fourth Advent candle (we are looking forward to the following Sunday!) **and Year 6 will lead the readings and prayers**. Families from all year groups are warmly welcome to join us for a few minutes of quiet reflection before what will doubtless be another busy week!

All best wishes

Catherine Burnham

YEAR 5 HIGH ASHURST INFORMATION For parents who were unable to attend the information evening, the presentation and payment letter have been emailed home and are also available on the Year 5 page of the website.

CLUB NEWS A letter about school-run after school clubs was sent home this week and is being re-sent with this newsletter. Letters with information about how to apply for these clubs will be sent home in the first couple of days of next term—you must apply and pay online only.

The only club running next week is Surrey Football Coaching on Monday.

YEAR 6 BOOSTER SESSIONS will not be running next week.

SPORT

Our Year 6 boys' football team beat Grovelands 6-0 on Friday. Unfortunately our Tuesday games against Ashley had to be cancelled due to a frozen pitch.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY Photos of our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children and Christmas Lunch are now on the website. Thank you for your support.

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents some schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. By forcing Catholic schools to turn away Catholic school children on the basis of their faith, the principle of a Catholic parent's right to choose a Catholic education is under threat. Bishop Richard asks that we petition the government on this important issue. Please find the link and more information on our website.

SURREY ARTS is holding Easter Music Courses in Redhill, 3 to 7 April for vocalists and instrumentalists. As well as a 5 day residential course there are one day courses and a free Orchestral Come and Try day on 5 April. Please see our website for more information.

THANK YOU We would like to say a big thank you to Vincent Flooring in the Halfway for kindly donating carpet for the All Saints altar area during this week's Years 4, 5, 6 concerts.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR RNIB A reminder that we collect used postage stamps to support fundraising for the Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB). Please bring in any used stamps from your Christmas post to the school office and we will forward to RNIB. Please see more about their work from the link on our website.

EFFORT AWARDS



Red	Alex C	Alannah L	Ruby	Niamh S	Aoife H
Orange	Dylan B	David S	Coral	Arianna R	Keeva J
Green	Caelan S	Alina M	Opal	Seren D	Erin C
Yellow	Elvis O	Isabella S	Sapphire	Yasmine H	Valentina C
Violet	Liam D	Ellie V	Emerald	Adam H	Isabella K
Blue	Martina G	Zara H	Amethyst	Phoebe V	Annabel B
Topaz	Joseph L	Charlotte H	Garnet	Ruby P	Maebh K