

ISSUE

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Newsletter

Dear Parents

Christmas is almost upon us! The final week of the Christmas term is always very busy in schools and this year has been no exception! The children have had a wonderful time handing out their Christmas cards, wearing their Christmas jumpers and celebrating together with their friends.

On Wednesday we enjoyed a wonderful **Christmas lunch** – children and staff! Our hugest compliments should go to the school catering staff - Trina, Nicky, Janet, Sarah and Wafa – who did a fantastic job serving Christmas lunch to 341 children and then to all the staff! The stuff of nightmares for many of us, but they took it all in their stride and made everything go very smoothly. Thanks also to all the staff – teachers and support staff – who served the children Christmas lunch with such good cheer! A lovely occasion!

More celebrations on Thursday, as the Christmas parties were underway in different classes across the day. The children enjoyed their festive food and drink – it's always amazing how much they can pack away when they are celebrating together! It was good on Friday morning to look ahead as a whole school to the end of Advent and the Feast of the Nativity – we brought Baby Jesus to the crib and sang some Christmas carols together in anticipation of the great feast of Christmas! When we return in January, we will continue to sing those Christmas carols for the first few days to help the children to remember that Christmas is not one day and finished, but a whole season of Christmas time, lasting until 6th January (Epiphany) and then beyond. In Rome, the crib remains until the “final” day of Christmas - 2nd February - when we celebrate the Presentation of the infant Jesus at the Temple.

If you have chance to catch breath and think about New Year's Resolutions over the school break, I wonder whether you would consider this:

School Reading Volunteers

Last year, we had a big push on encouraging parishioners to support reading in school and we were blessed with a great response. We will renew that appeal this year, but we would like to appeal again within our community too – most especially we see lots of parents (and many grandparents these days) on the school run and we wonder whether some would be able to spare an hour to read with children in a morning or before pick-up? We know that many of our parents are very busy – some work and others have family commitments – but this support is really vital to support our children's progress and we would be very grateful if you are able to help out at all. Be aware that all school volunteers are DBS checked and attend safeguarding training as safeguarding is always our key priority.

As we come to the end of the school term, I would like to thank all families for your continued support for the school – we are truly blessed with a friendly and supportive community here at Cardinal Newman and the children really benefit both from the Catholic ethos and from the network of support. Thank you for all your wonderful contributions to our school life.

As you have a chance now to draw breath and really enjoy being with your children over the Christmas break, I wish all of you a joyful Christmas and every blessing for the coming year.

May God bless all of you and grant you His peace this Christmas.

Catherine Burnham

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

We break up today at 1.30pm and return on Monday 7 January.

SPRING TERM CLUBS

We are sending out club lists for next term. Please make a special note of the dates they are running and how to book. Paper copies of the lists and application forms are available from the office.

DIARY DATES

We are sending home dates for the spring and summer terms. We are also sending home the schedule for Parent Consultation Evenings in February—we hope this will help you plan ahead.

SCHOOL LUNCHES SPRING HALF TERM—KS2 CHILDREN

Please remember to book lunches for next half term via the link on our website and then make payment using your Scopay account. **No bookings will be taken if there is an amount outstanding from this term.**

NO NUTS, PLEASE

A reminder that children should not have chocolate or nut based spreads in their lunch boxes—these are dangerous for our children with nut allergies. Thank you.

NATIONAL NATIVITY SCENE PAINTING COMPETITION (YEAR 3)

Congratulations to Henry S and James N whose entries have won through to the next stage of judging to find the national winner of this competition run by the Knights of St Columba, a Catholic fraternal service organisation with branches around the country.

CAR PARKING

Unfortunately, we have had a complaint about the behaviour of a parent during our last week of term. Please can we ask again that when we return next term parents act with courtesy and consideration towards our neighbours. Thank you.

APPOINTMENTS FOR PARENTS WITH SCHOOL NURSE—22 JANUARY

We have a few appointments left for the school nurse’s drop in session in January. Please contact the school office.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION SEP 19 PLACES FOR SURREY CC SCHOOLS

A reminder that the deadline for applications is Tuesday 15 January—applications must be made to Surrey CC online, Supplementary Information Forms must be returned to school by the same date.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

	All Saints	St Erconwald’s
Christmas Eve	Vigil 7pm	Children’s Vigil 6pm Midnight Mass 10pm
Christmas Day	Mass at 9.15am	Masses at 9.15am and 11.15am
Children are very welcome to join the St Erconwald Singers on Christmas Eve at the 6pm Mass.		

