

St Ethelbert's RCP School

November 2019



Dear Parents,
This is a very busy half term as the staff and children begin their Advent preparations. The children are busily rehearsing for their Christmas productions, whilst still working hard in their usual lessons. It is a privilege to be in school at this time of year, as we look forward to the birth of Jesus.
Thank you for your continued support,
Best wishes,
M. Messham
Headteacher

Goodbye and Good Luck!

At the end of term, Mr. Noake, our Y5 teacher will be leaving us, as he takes up a new post in New Zealand! We will be so sad to see him go but at the same time, we are very excited that he has such a wonderful opportunity. We wish him every success in his new role. In January, Mrs Gabriella Shepherd will join our team as the new teacher in Y5.



Please help us to increase our budget! Is your child eligible for free school meals?

For every child on free school meals, the school is given additional Pupil Premium funding by the government – this is used to pay for staff who support our children with interventions. We think there may be some children who are eligible for free school meals who haven't claimed – this includes children from Nursery up to Y6. As you know, children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are able to receive universal free school meals – however, this does not provide the school with any additional funding. Please consider taking a little bit of time to see if you are eligible – this will help the school financially. The children don't have to actually take the meal – they can still bring a packed lunch if they wish; regardless, the funding is still awarded to the school.

Check the link below:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>



Christmas Productions

Early Years & KS1 – *The Donkey Seller* – Thursday 12th December 1.30pm & 6pm
KS2 – *Angels on High* – Monday 16th December at 6pm in church



Remember to purchase your tickets before they go on general sale!

The school organises two performances for the EY and KS1 play to accommodate families who may not be able to attend during the school day. Therefore, it is important that ALL children come back in the evening so that everyone can enjoy the same experience. Please support us by ensuring your children take a full part in our Christmas celebrations.

Games Night

A Games Night has been organised for pupils in Y2-Y6. This will take place on **Friday 6th December** in the school hall, from **6pm until 7.30pm**. There will be a variety of games, including a quiz, bingo and a beetle drive – all with a Christmas theme! Tuck will be available at 50p per item. Tickets are available at the school, office and cost **£3 per child**.



Beetle Drive



Attendance Champions

w.c. 28/10 - Y & Y6 – 98% full attendance
w.c. 4/11 – Y6 – 99% full attendance
w.c. 11/11- Y2 & Y6 – 96% full attendance
w.c. 18/11- Y6 – 99% full attendance
25/11 – Y1 – 99% full attendance

Dates for your Diary

December:

Thursday 12th – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 1.30pm & 6pm

Friday 13th – Whole school mass for the end of term

Monday 16th – KS2 Christmas production - 6pm in church

Tuesday 17th – Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 18th – Certificate assembly

Wednesday 18th December-school closes at **2p.m.** for Christmas holidays and reopens on **Monday 6th January at 8.50a.m.** (2 weeks & 2 days)



Parish Fair

Thank you to all those families who supported the parish Christmas Fair, which was held in school last week and helped to raise funds for church.

Well done everyone!

The school was recently assessed for the Healthy Schools Plus Award by representatives from the Local Authority. Mrs Haslam had to show how the school has made a difference to pupils' mental health and self-esteem. The assessors were very impressed by the school's evidence and were delighted to tell us that we had met all their expectations. Thank you to Mrs Haslam for all her hard work in this area.



November Birthdays

Nursery: Ismael, Nona, Areesha, Mia, Dylan

Y1: Tylan, Kaima

Y2: Penny, Tyler

Y3: Mylee, Allan, Phoebe, Adrian, Carson, Daria

Y4: Alfie, Katie

Y5: Elizabeth, Imaan, Muhammad, Samaya, Tyla, Fariha

Y6: Olivia, Jayden

Happy Birthday to you all!



November Remembrance

November was a special month as we remembered all those in the armed forces who gave their lives for our country so that we could live in peace and freedom. Thank you to the GIFT team who organised and presented a special assembly, at which the whole school took part in a two minutes silence. Then, each child placed a cross at the school entrance to show their respect.



Our Curriculum

The children continue to have access to a range of experiences within and beyond our curriculum. In November:

- A group of Y6 pupils represented the school at a local football tournament
- Computing Club visited Bolton Science and Technology Centre, where they used Lego and the Book Creator app to make their own stories
- Espoir, Libby, Elizabeth, Brooke and Evie visited St. William's, where they received training to become Play Buddies
- Lego Lads' Club visited Bolton Science and Technology Centre
- Y6 visited the Anne Frank exhibit at Bolton Museum
- Father David from the Diocese visited the GIFT team to talk to them about their work in school
- All classes have had an afternoon without electricity, as we think about saving the world's resources
- Pupils from Y1-Y6 participated in CAFOD workshops, delivered by Leo and Jane Conley
- On All Saints' Day, the children learned about different saints through the creative arts
- Y6 had a 'Parliament Day', where they learned all about how parliament works. They even voted for their own Prime Minister!
- The GIFT team joined other chaplains at an Advent activity day at Mount St. Joseph

