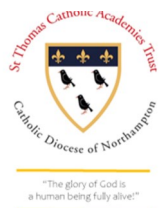


Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Newsletter



Diocese of Northampton
St. Thomas Catholic
Academies Trust



Issue 46

Date: Monday 4th January 2021

In his song, *'So this is Christmas'* John Lennon sang, *'another year over and new one just begun.'* I think is a very suitable way to begin not only this reflection, but this New Year! Like me, you are more than likely glad to the back and the end of 2020. The impact of what we all experienced last year is by no means over and done with it. Many of us are still dealing with some form of lock down, social restrictions and distancing and are unable to visit friends and families freely. Many of us are now living the painful impact of bereavement because someone we have loved or known has died. However, because of the wonderful news that vaccines with which to treat Covid 19 are now being administered at least in some countries, there is some light at the end of the tunnel. While most of us will have to wait until well into the New Year to receive a vaccine injection, we can continue to pray the great Advent phrase and look to the future now with **joyful hope**.



The name for the month 'January' comes from the Roman god Janus. The Romans honoured and paid homage to Janus at this time of the year. His statue had two faces; one that looked forward and the other that backwards. This gave rise to the saying farewell to the old year and welcoming the new one. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions also comes from this ancient ritual, one that we keep to this very day as we begin a New Year. Perhaps, now we are more hopeful and optimistic as 2021 begins. What are your hopes, dreams and expectations for the year ahead? Whatever they are let remember that we are not alone; God is with us. Perhaps these words from the Old Testament can encourage us and give us hopes these days; **The Lord says, 'Do not cling to the past or dwell on what has happened. Watch for the new things that I am doing – they are happening already, you can see them now.'**

Allowing for the unusual Christmas we may have celebrated, these early days of January can leave us feeling a little sad as we prepare to take the tree down and put away the decorations. Our homes can look a little duller and darker with all the lights removed. However, Sunday's Gospel tells us that, Jesus, **the Word is the true light that enlightens all people**. Later in John's Gospel Jesus will clearly and loudly proclaim; **'I am the Light of the world.'** Jesus is not only the light of the world; he is the light for the world and for each one of us personally, especially as we begin this New Year.

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the first day of the new term and of 2021. Although a very different Christmas this year we hope that you had a well earned rest and enjoyed time together in your bubbles. The holidays may have been very difficult for a lot of families, please do get in touch if there is anything school can do to help and support you, your children and your families.

Although school is open currently you will be very aware that guidance is constantly changing. We are doing our very best to keep on top of all the latest guidelines and headlines and we will endeavour to correspond with you as quickly and as efficiently as we can. Please continue to check emails and Twitter for the latest information.

The WORD of the Week:

Each week we would like to share a scripture with you to share and discuss with your children:

'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.'

2 Corinthians 3:17

Learning, Growing and Living With Jesus

Timings

| Year group | Start of the day | End of the day |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nursery | Morning- 8.20 Afternoon- 12.15 | Morning- 11.30 Afternoon- 3.15 |
| Reception | 8.35 | 2.50 |
| 1 | 9.05 | 3.20 |
| 2 | 8.15 | 2.30 |
| 3 | 8.55 | 3.10 |
| 4 | 8.25 | 2.40 |
| 5 | 8.45 | 3.00 |
| 6 | 9.15 | 3.30 |

Its good to talk!

Times are hard for lots of us at the moment and there is no harm in admitting that and asking for help. Talking Therapies is a free NHS service here to support the residents of Berkshire aged 17+ who may be struggling with difficulties including: low mood, anxiety and stress at this unprecedented time.

If you are in need of support you can call the Talking Therapies admin team on 0300 365 2000, alternatively you can Sign Up via their website referral form.



Prayer for the week

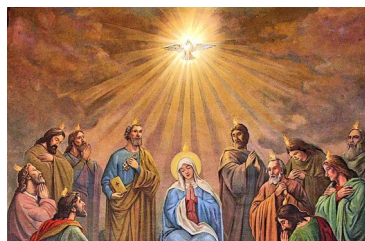
Come Holy Spirit, breath and life of God, be with us today.

Be our light, our guide and protector.

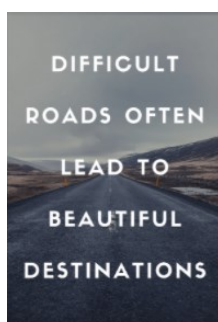
May this New Year be a time of renewed joy for us, our families and our World.

A time for welcoming new gifts, new graces and new Hope.

Amen



Growth Mind-set



A few reminders:

- Masks **must be worn covering the nose and mouth** (unless you are exempt) to drop off and collect your children. **Please have your exemption card/badge visible or available to show staff**, if necessary.
- Please socially distance from other families; please keep small children with you at all times and avoid them mixing with children from other households.
- Please avoid coming to the office, unless you have pre-arranged an appointment; please try to call or email instead.
- Only one adult should be dropping off and collecting children per family; this is to limit numbers of adults as much as possible. If older brothers or sisters are collecting younger siblings, only one adolescent will be permitted to collect (they will be unable to bring friends with them). Once you have collected your child/ren, please exit the site as quickly as possible.
- We will continue with the staggered start and end times to the day until further notice.

Cleaner needed

We are looking for a new cleaner to join our team fixed term.

The hours needed are: 3.45-5.45 on a Monday to Friday. Fixed term until February. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Attendance

Good Attendance means...

Being in school at least 97% of the time or 184 to 190 days

Remember

Your education is important - don't miss out!

Did you know?
A two-week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance a child can achieve is 84.7%



Free School Meals

Help your school and yourself - claim free school meals

Taking up free school meals has benefits for everyone:

- children get a healthy nutritious meal
- schools can benefit directly by receiving £1300 for each eligible primary school child

WHO QUALIFIES FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free school meals are offered to children of families who receive:

- ☑ Income Support
- ☑ Income Based Jobseeker Allowance (IBJSA)
- ☑ Employment & Support Allowance (Income Related) (ESA(RI))
- ☑ Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ☑ Child Tax Credit (TC602) that does not exceed income of £16190.00
- ☑ Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (M1000 Award Notice)
- ☑ Universal Credit and my family's net income excluding any benefit related payments is less than £7,400

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

If you think you qualify for free school meals and have an email address or mobile number then you can apply through Slough Borough Council's online free school meals form. Slough Borough Council will then inform you if your application is successful or not.

If you do not have an email address or a mobile number then you can get a 'free school meals' application form from your child's/children's school. The school will then inform you if your application is successful or not.

Once you are eligible for free school meals, you are more likely to remain eligible for up to 2 years despite any changes to your circumstances.

Not claiming benefits, but have a child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2?

There are clear advantages in pupils having a school dinner, so the Government have announced that every child in the above Year groups will be eligible for a free meal under the Universal Free School Meals scheme.

You can apply online or pick up a registration form from our school reception.



CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book



Have a whole family bedtime story



Create a puppet show of a book



Read a story by the Christmas tree



Read a book that is older than you



Build a den and share a story in it



Read a story about an animal



Read a book about kindness



Share a story with someone over Zoom



Draw a picture from your favourite book



Share a poem with someone



Read a book that makes you laugh



TIS THE SEASON TO GET READING!



Help raise free funds for our school

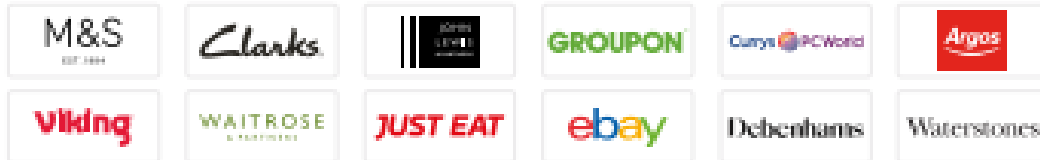
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St Anthony's Catholic Primary School- Slough

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1.8 million users