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9 November 2018

Dear Parents

I hope you have had a great half term. It's wonderful to welcome back your children. It has been a very busy few weeks since half term. Thank you for all your support. Our Year 2 and Year 6 children are selling poppies to mark Remembrance Day, thank you for sending your money in.

Winter Fayre

Our annual Winter Fayre takes place on Saturday 17 November from 12 - 4.00 pm in the Junior School. There will be stalls, hot food, face painting and crafts amongst many other activities. Please come along and support this event. Our PTFA have raised lots of money for our school through a number of events and have most recently enabled us to upgrade the Junior School and purchase iPads in the Infants. Thanks to them.

Children in Need

Friday 16 November is Children in Need day. Children are welcome to come into school in their own clothes or they can dress up for the day if they wish. If you wish to donate, you are welcome to do so. The vision for Children in Need is to work together to ensure every child in the UK has a safe, happy childhood which allows them to fulfil their potential.

School Photographs

A photographer will be coming into school on Wednesday 21 November to photograph classes across both schools. This will also be an opportunity to mop up any children who missed their photos earlier in the year. Please let the office know if you would like an individual or sibling photograph of your child/children.

Initial Teacher Training

As a teaching school, one of our roles in St Aloysius is to deliver Initial Teacher Training (ITT). We have been delivering teacher training as a lead school for the Carmel partnership for a number of years with an outstanding track record of producing excellent teachers of the future. If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more about teaching, already has a degree and is thinking of completing their ITT year starting September 2019 then please contact Dionne Dunn at school for further details or have a look at www.carmelteachertraining.com

Hebburn Lights Switch-on

Hebburn Christmas Lights will be switched on at 4.00 pm on Monday 26 November. As always, our Junior children have been asked to attend. If your child is in Years 3-6 and you would like them to participate, we will keep them in school and take them down to Fountains Park. Would you please send in a snack and a drink for your child so they can have this before they leave school? The switch-on will finish at approximately 4.40 pm, when you can pick them up (from the park). Please complete the form at the end of this letter to let us know your child's intentions.

Christmas Parties

Christmas party days are as follows:

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|-----------------------|--|
| Monday 17 December | Year 3 and Year 4 - Santa to visit |
| Wednesday 19 December | Nursery A (Mrs James), Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - Santa to visit |
| Thursday 20 December | Year 5 and Year 6 |
| Friday 21 December | Nursery B party afternoon (Mrs Smissen) - Santa to visit |

Children to come to school dressed in their party clothes. On their party day the school kitchen will provide a **FREE** Christmas party lunch for all children from Nursery - Year 6. Please inform the office if you don't want a free party lunch for your child.

Christmas Lunch

As part of our Christmas celebrations we will be having our annual Christmas Lunch for both schools on Wednesday 5 December.

For Junior School parents only - if your child usually brings a packed lunch but would like a lunch that day, please pay for this via ParentPay by Monday 19 November. A payment item entitled Christmas Lunch has been created on ParentPay for this and the cost is £2.10. We are unable to accept payments after this date as our cook needs to order in advance. (Children who normally stay for lunch just need to pay their usual weekly dinner money of £10.50).

Christmas Nativities and Carol Services

Please be aware of the upcoming Christmas Nativities and Carol Concerts. They have been published on our website since the start of the year and I know they will be an amazing celebration of Christmas. We are expecting that the Infant and Nursery Nativities take place in the Junior Hall due to ongoing building work on the Infant Hall. If this changes (and the work is done) we will let you know. Please note the start times are 9.30 to enable the children to get changed. This will be 15 minutes later than initially published. We will be offering tea and coffee whilst you wait in the hall. There will be two performances of each Nativity and we ask that parents come to one performance as outlined below:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Thursday 13 December | 9.30-10.10 | Reception, Mrs Backhurst |
| | 14.00-14.40 | Reception, Mrs Cawthorn |
| Friday 14 December | 9.30-10.10 | Y1, Mrs Balfour |
| | 14.00-14.40 | Y1 Mr Hunter |
| Monday 17 December | 9.30- 10.10 | Nursery, Mrs James |
| Tuesday 18 December | 9.30-10.10 | Y2, Miss Fawcett |
| | 14.00-14.40 | Y2, Miss Doughty |
| Tuesday 18 December | 3.30- 4.30 | Years 5 & 6 Carols by Candlelight in Church |
| Thursday 20 December | 9.30- 10.10 | Nursery, Mrs Smissen |
| | 3.30- 4.30 | Years 3 & 4 Carols by Candlelight in Church |

All members of our Junior school Choirs are expected to attend both our Carols by Candlelight services. The children will be taken to the Carol Service by school staff. This means that Y5/6 children (and Y4 choir) will be taken to the church on 18 December and then Y3/4 children (and Y5/6 choir) will be taken to church on 20 December. Please inform the school office if your child is unable to attend both services. If your child is taking part in the Carol Service on 18 and 20 December and they have a sibling in the Infant School you may pick up your younger child at the earlier time of 3.00 pm to allow you to get to church.

ParentPay

Thank you to all those parents who have activated their Parentpay accounts. ParentPay can be used to pay for school meals (Juniors and Nursery) and all events, trips, after school clubs etc. We are encouraging all parents to activate their account so that they will receive a payment item notification for any up and coming events. You do not have to pay for events via ParentPay, we are still accepting cash payment at both school offices, but by activating your account you will receive notification quicker. If you are having problems with your activation or have lost your activation letter which contained your code and password please contact the school office and a member of the admin team will be happy to help you. Events currently available on ParentPay are:

Infants

- Nursery lunches
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- IT Club
- Gymnastics After School Club - Year 2

Juniors

- Junior lunches
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- Science After School Club
- Y5 Keswick residential
- Y5 Sunderland Empire
- Y6 Borrowdale residential
- Gymnastics After School Club
- Christmas Lunch (for children who usually bring a packed lunch)

Our last day of term is **Friday 21 December** and we have designated this as Christmas Jumper Day. We ask that children bring in a donation of between 50p and £1.00, which will be forwarded to St Clare’s Hospice, Jarrow as part of their Jolly Jumper fundraising. We are looking forward to seeing all their colourful and festive jumpers.

Please note that shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will be collected from school on Wednesday 14 November.

Thank you for your continued support. We know we ask a lot of you, but we really do appreciate your generous donations. We hope that together we can contribute to making a difference.

With every good wish for a really successful couple of weeks ahead.



Nick Conway

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON - JUNIOR SCHOOL CHILDREN ONLY

Name of child Class Teacher

I confirm my child will participate in the event: My child will not participate in the event:

Signed