

THE MESSENGER



8th December 2023

Issue No: 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our Advent Prayer Sessions began, which always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Thank you to all those who have been able to join us.

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas is fast approaching and is a very busy time in school. The Foundation Stage and Key Stage One are excited to share their Christmas Nativity with you next week. I have been lucky enough to hear some little bits of it as I walk through the hall and I am looking forward to watching the full production next week. It is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you. The KS2 children will have the opportunity to watch the nativity on Monday afternoon and I am sure they will really enjoy it.

The KS2 children will be leading us in a carol concert in the last week on Thursday 21st December at 9.30am in the school hall, parents, family members and parishioners and warmly invited to join us for the carol singing. Some other important dates are below:

Monday 11 th December	Y4 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
Tuesday 12 th December	Y3 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
Wednesday 13 th December	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Nativity 9.30am
Thursday 14 th December	Y1/2 Mass in the hall 9.30am
Thursday 14 th December	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Nativity 1.30am
Friday 15 th December	End of Term Celebration Assembly
Monday 18 th December	Y2 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
Tuesday 19 th December	Y1 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
Wednesday 20 th December	Reception Advent Liturgy 9.10am
Wednesday 20 th December	Christmas Dinner Day and 2 nd Christmas Jumper Day (Children to wear Christmas jumpers over their uniforms)
Thursday 21 st December	Whole School Carol Concert led by KS2 in the school hall 9.30am
Friday 22 nd December	Whole School Mass 9.30am
Friday 22 nd December	School closes for Christmas

Please note that we return to school on Tuesday 9th January.

Thank you for your continued support during this term and I look forward to sharing this season of Advent with you.

God bless
Mrs Rigby



This Advent will mark the start of a special year in the church's calendar. Pope Francis has called for a 'Year of Prayer' in preparation for the Jubilee year in 2025. We are being encouraged to reflect on our life of prayer: what we pray, how we pray & why we pray to encourage us to deepen our own prayer life and love of God and help someone else to pray. There will be a particular focus on the 'Our Father'. This Advent please take time to pray this prayer with your families.

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Diary Dates / Notes



December

- 8th—Christmas Fair
- 11th—Y4 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
- 12th- Y3 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
- 13th— EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity 9.30am (Tickets required)
- 14th—Y1/2 Mass in the hall 9.30am
- 14th—Choir at UNSH
- 15th—End of Term Celebration Assembly 2.30pm
- 18th—Y2 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
- 19th—Y1 Advent Liturgy 9.10am
- 20th—Reception Advent Liturgy 9.10am
- 20th—Christmas School Dinner (Full uniform with Christmas Jumper over the top)
- 21st—Whole School Carol Concert led by KS2 9.30am
- 22nd—Whole School Mass 9.30am
- 22nd— Last day of school

January

- 9th—Pupils return to school
- 11th—Young Voices
- 12th—Celebration Assembly
- 16th & 17th—Parents Evening
- 17th—Y5/Y6 Athletics Competition
- 19th—Celebration Assembly
- 24th—EYFS Teddy Bear Hospital onsite
- 26th - Celebration Assembly

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Last day of school Friday 22nd December

Spring Term 2024

Inset Day Monday 8th January
(School closed to pupils)
School opens to all Tuesday 9th January
Half Term Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February
School opens to all Monday 19th February
School Closes Friday 22nd March

Summer Term 2024

School opens to all Monday 8th April
May Day-school closed Monday 6th May



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT

Please notify the relevant office if your address/telephone/email has



November Attendance

Nursery	95.37%
Reception	94.75%
Year 1	97.67%
Year 2	98.45%
Year 3	97.58%
Year 4	97.11%
Year 5	98.19%
Year 6	95.36%

Well done Year 2!

CARECLUB

Please ensure you book your Child/ren's place in advance on Scopay, we have limited places and can't guarantee a space if you don't book in.

Bookings have to be made on Scopay 48 Hours in advance.

Emergency Bookings via the Office.
01782 367267



While the weather is colder please ensure that all children have suitable clothing for outdoor play at break/lunch time eg coats, hats and gloves.



We would like to wish all pupils and families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From all the staff at St John's



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



Please be mindful of other road users, local residents and the safety of our children when parking around school. Please be reminded that no parking is allowed outside The Avenue **at any time**, unless displaying a blue badge. Gloucester Road—please do not block residents driveways or park on the zig zag lines.

Please do not send children into school with cough /throat sweets these are not allowed due to being a potential choking hazard.



Please share your positive views about our school on Parent View <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Thank you for your support.

Reminders to Parents



- ♦ **School Uniforms**—Our full uniform range is now available at Supersport, Tunstall (including Ties and book bags). Smart school, Tunstall stock the cardigans/jumpers and non branded items. The school office carries a limited stock of elastic ties, water bottles & book bags. Please order via Scopay.
- ♦ **School Dinners** -
Price per meal **£2.40** for Nursery.
Price per meal **£3.10** for years 3/4/5 & 6.
- ♦ **Breakfast Club - Staffed by Mrs Copeland & Mrs Meadowcroft**
- ♦ Places must be booked and paid for in advance via Scopay.
Breakfast Club per child; from 7.30am £5.00 or £20 for the whole week—**Children must be in by 8.30am**
Drop off at 8.30am cost £1.00 (Bookable via office@stjohnskidsgrove.org.uk)
- ♦ **After school care club—Mon-Fri 3pm-5.45pm –Snack included. Staffed by Mrs Copeland & Mrs Bennett**
- ♦ Places must be booked and paid for in advance via Scopay.
Care Club per child:
from 3.00pm to 4.30pm £5.00
from 3.00pm to 5.45pm £7.50
St Margaret Ward Siblings can be dropped off from 8.10am and picked up by 3.40pm no charge. Before or after this time charges above apply.
- ♦ We are a cashless school—all payments are to be made in advance via your child's Scopay account.
- ♦ **Late Arrivals / Early Leaving** - please bring/collect your child to/from the school office. It is important that your child attends school regularly and on time in order to ensure good academic achievement. Please ensure that where possible, medical appointments are arranged outside school hours.

Please note the school has a strict no smoking policy on its grounds. This includes E-cigarettes or any other nicotine based products.

If you see anyone on the school premises when the school is closed please call the police on **101** and report the incident. Thank you for your support and cooperation

Would Parents and Carers please note that dinner money, careclub and afterschool clubs are payable in advance and should be paid online via your child's Scopay



Please note Dogs should not be brought onto school premises

School Hours: EYFS/KS1 Doors open at 8.35am need to be in by 8.40am

Nursery doors open 3.00pm Reception & KS1 Collection at 3.10pm

KS2 Doors open at 8.45am need to be in by 8.50am. Collection at 3.20pm

ABSENCEIF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST TELEPHONE SCHOOL ON 01782 367267 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ABSENCE LINE. BEFORE 09.30am stating the reason for absence.

If you require this document in any other format please contact the office.