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**Our Lady and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
Strong in Faith

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School  
Fordbridge Road,  
Kingshurst,  
Birmingham  
B37 6LW

Friday 15th December 2023

***This half term, we are growing to be more Attentive and Discerning***

Hot on the heels of EYFS' fabulous Nativity performances last week, today it was the turn of Key Stage One. We are incredibly proud of the children for all of the hard work that they have put into learning their songs and individual parts and we are also extremely grateful to the staff for all of the hard work that they have put into making these performances so memorable.



You may also have seen some of the photos on Twitter from our Christmas dinner and jumper day on Tuesday. Thanks to Zoe and our catering team for all of the delicious food.



This week we came together as a school community to mark the first anniversary of the tragic accident at Babbs Mill. At a beautifully reverent mass on Monday we welcomed back Jack's classmates and family members to remember the light that Jack brought into our lives and share the happy memories that we have of him. We would ask you to please keep all those who love and miss Jack in your prayers as we head into this Christmas season.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am we will have our last school mass of 2023, led by the Faith Ambassadors. You are most welcome to come and join us as we bless all of the incredible 'bambinelli' figures that you have made together over the past few weeks.



Year 2 have had an amazing week. We have been learning about Advent, 3D shapes and have celebrated with a lovely Christmas dinner!



CHRISTMAS DINNER





**Nursery** have had a lovely week this week. We all showed off our Christmas jumpers and had lunch together. We also have been using the hall in the morning to find an object to sing our favourite Nursery Rhymes.





*Year 3* have had a great week! Paddington has finally been found and we got to celebrate with a wonderful Christmas dinner!



In **Reception** this week, we all wore our Christmas jumpers and sat down together for a yummy Christmas dinner. We sat in a circle and took turns showing our friends our lovely outfits whilst listening to some festive music. We had a special job this week, as our Elf asked us if we could design and build a new house for him to live in! Some children made their houses from LEGO blocks, and some did junk modelling. Our Elf was very impressed. Thank you to everyone who took part in our homework project and made a Bambinelli, we have all loved seeing your creative ideas.



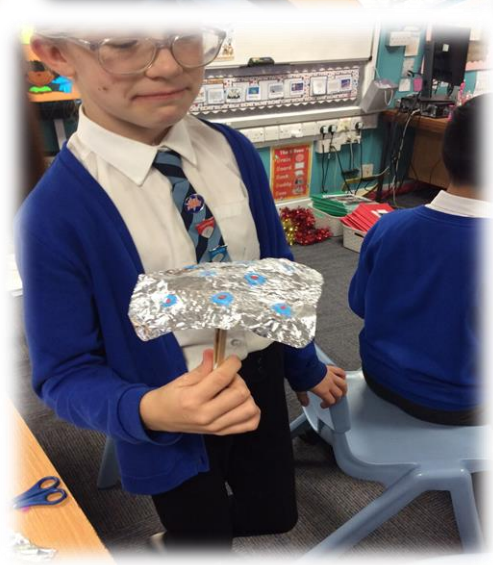
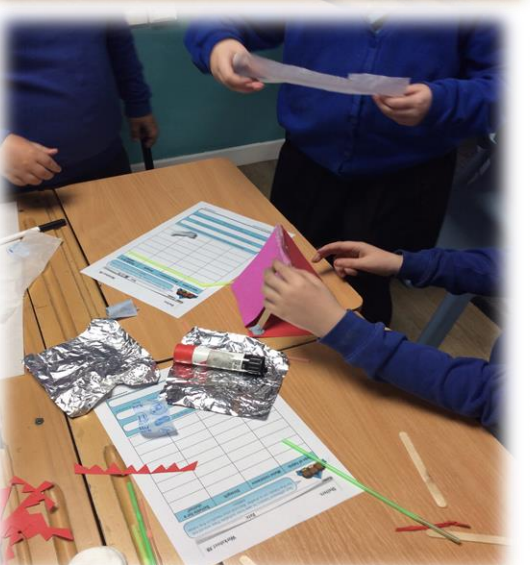
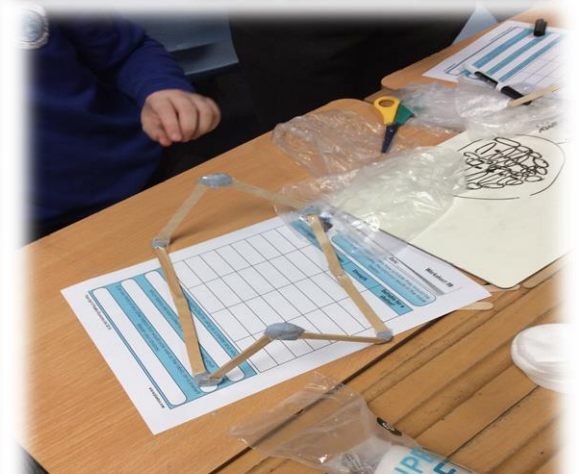
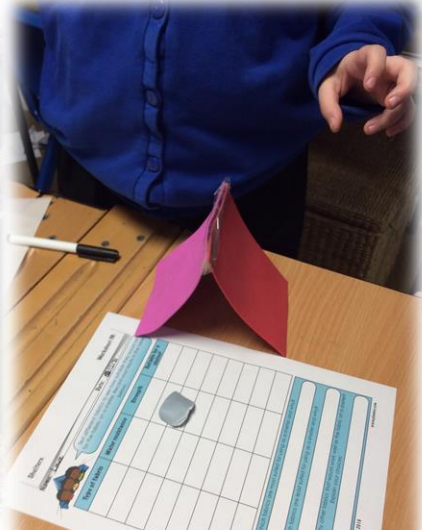
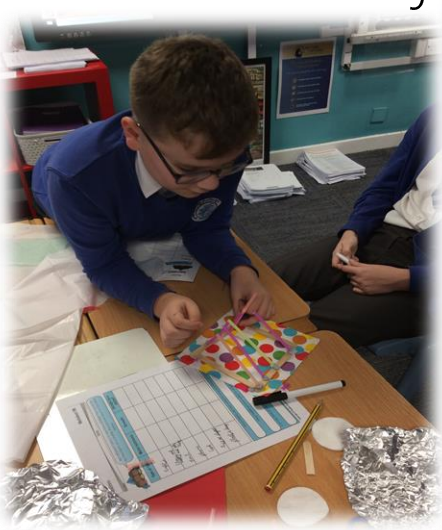


**Year 4** were very festive this week! On Tuesday, we shared a delicious Christmas lunch! In RE we have been learning about different symbols on the Jesse tree. The children explored the different bible characters and stories, before making and painting their own Jesse tree decorations. In DT, everyone finessed their skills in the kitchen, producing healthy sandwiches. In maths, we looked at different angles in a shape. We worked in Kagan groups to find the angles on our desks.





As part of their D&T topic on Shelters, **Year 6** have been investigating suitable materials to build their shelters from. They tested how strong the materials were, if they were waterproof and whether they could be attached to other materials easily.





This week the children in **Tiny Ants** made their own Christmas tree mixing yellow and blue to make green, using rollers to spread the bubble wrap and stamping to press glitter into the collaborative art piece.



We popped bubble wrap with our friends using our hands and knees.



We painted baubles choosing our favourite colour.



We thought Father Christmas's beard was too long so we used scissors to make it shorter.



We painted baubles choosing our favourite colour.





The results of this week's battles are in!

In 1<sup>st</sup> place was St. Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> place St. Patrick, 3<sup>rd</sup> place St. David and 4<sup>th</sup> place St. George. Well done to the 'Most Valuable Players' (MVPs) in each house:

	MVP	2 <sup>nd</sup> MVP	3 <sup>rd</sup> MVP
St. Andrew	Oliver Y5	Noah Y4	Gracie Y5
St. Patrick	Joaquin Y4	Robyn Y5	Hope K Y5
St. David	Karson Y4	Charlie Y4	Lois Y5
St. George	Bobbie Y6	Harlow Y3	Freddie Y4

For the final battle of 2023 it's back to Staff v Pupils! The staff were victorious last time...will the children beat us this time?



Only a few children were awarded stage completion certificates for Numbots today;

Well done to: Andrew, Lincoln and Milia in Year 1.

Come on Reception and Year 1 get practising those maths skills!!!

## Scheduled Maintenance

The NumBots service will be unavailable from 5pm (UK time) on Friday the 15th December, to 9am on Saturday the 16th December, to complete the below update.

## Updated Story Mode

On the 16th December, we're reducing the number of levels within Story Mode to significantly improve the pupils' experience. We've also improved how some types of levels function, enabling us to teach certain skills in fewer steps. Win, win!

You may need to update the NumBots app for these changes to take effect.



## When kids are not the focus... who's in charge?

If you've had too much to drink, the children may take control.



You would never neglect your children on purpose, but you could be putting their safety at risk if drinking at home distracts you from looking after them.

Every year, adult drinking at home is leaving more children to care for themselves and their brothers or sisters.

Staying in to drink? Stay in control.

Who's In Charge?® is a registered trademark of Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

who's in charge?



## EYFS Polar Express Day



On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding a Polar Express Experience in EYFS. We kindly ask all children to attend school in their PJ's ready to board the Polar Express. We will have lots of lovely learning through play experiences for children and a tasty hot chocolate too!



## YoungMinds Parents Helpline



We support parents and carers who are concerned about their child or young person's mental health. Our Parents Helpline provides detailed advice and information, emotional support and signposting.

You can contact us by phone, webchat or email.

You can speak to us over webchat between 9.30am and 4pm from Monday-Friday. When our webchat service is closed, you can email us using the form on our Parents Helpline page.

Opening times:

9.30am-4pm, Monday-Friday

[0808 802 5544](tel:08088025544)

Parents Helpline

## Family Line



Provides information and support around family issues, as well as longer-term help through Befrienders and Counsellors.

Opening times: 9am - 9pm, Monday - Friday

[0808 802 6666](tel:08088026666)

[07537 404 282](tel:07537404282)

[familyline@family-action.org.uk](mailto:familyline@family-action.org.uk)

 Family Line

# Tiny Ants

You could be eligible for free childcare. Please see below to find out more.....

We currently have a limited amount of spaces available in Tiny Ants.

Please see the below information regarding funding;

- Some 2 year old children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare dependent on meeting certain criteria.
- ALL 3 year old children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare.
- Some 3 year olds maybe eligible for 30 hours funded childcare dependent on meeting criteria.
- If you would like your child to join Tiny Ants at 2 years old and you are not eligible for funding or if you would like 30 hours and not just the standard 15 hours childcare, there is the option to pay school direct for this (subject to availability).

For more information or to apply for funding, please visit: (2 year olds) <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>. (3 & 4 year olds) <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>.

Please contact the school office to apply for a Tiny Ants space.



# School Ties



School ties are not optional, they must be worn by Reception – Year 6 pupils as part of the winter uniform. Ties are available from the school office and can be paid for on Parent Pay. Ties are also available from PB Sports <https://www.pbsports.co.uk/> If you have any questions, please contact the school office

**CHRISTMAS HAF**

**ST ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
KINGSHURST  
B37 6LW  
6-12 YEARS OLD  
10:00 - 14:00

BOOK NOW  
[info@winnersport.com](mailto:info@winnersport.com)  
[WWW.WINNERSPORT.COM](http://WWW.WINNERSPORT.COM)

**£12.00 PER DAY**  
**FREE FOR FSM**  
**BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED**

Winnersport  
Sollihull METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



Mrs Clarke leaves us next week to start a new job. We would like to thank Mrs Clarke for all of her hard work and dedication to our school. She will be missed!

We welcome Mrs Mathews who will be starting in the school office after Christmas.

# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Mindy Atwood designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

# Primary School Menu

# WEEK ONE

Fresh

Dates: 6<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> February  
11<sup>th</sup> March

## Monday

Pasta Bolognese  
Garlic Slice

\*\*\*\*

BBQ Quorn Pitta  
Pockets

\*\*\*\*

Fruit Smoothie

\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Tuesday

BBQ Chicken Wrap  
Potato Wedges  
Sweetcorn

\*\*\*\*

Roasted Vegetable  
Savoury Rice

\*\*\*\*

Fruit Pie & Custard

\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Wednesday

Roasted Gammon  
Roast Potatoes  
Carrots, Peas

\*\*\*\*

Veggie Sausages  
Roast Potatoes  
Carrots/Peas

\*\*\*\*

Iced Sponge

\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Thursday

Mini Sausage  
Yorkshires  
Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley

\*\*\*\*

Vegetable Curry  
& Rice

\*\*\*\*

Homebake – Frosted  
Carrot Cake

\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Friday

Fish Fingers  
Chips  
Baked Beans

\*\*\*\*

Cheese & Tomato  
Pizza  
Chips  
Baked Beans

\*\*\*\*

Homebake -  
Chocolate Cookies

\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

Available Daily

Home Baked Bread  
Seasonal Salads



MSC-C-54995



**Solihull**  
METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# Head Teacher's Awards



# Congratulations!

**Reception – Kiara-Belle** – For always trying her best and shining like Jesus everyday.

**Year 1 – Mia** – For her amazing attitude towards learning.

**Year 2 – Year 2** – For working so hard on your Nativity! Everyone is so proud of you.

**Year 3 – Rosie-May** – For always being kind, caring and supportive of everyone!

**Year 4 – Maya** – For energy and enthusiasm across all lessons.

**Year 5 – Elsie** – For being a compassionate partner and a joy to teach.

**Year 6 – Natalia** – For being an incredible pupil with a fantastic attitude every single day.



# Diary Dates



These dates will updated each week and newly added events / any changes will be **highlighted in yellow.**

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	R – Y6	Whole school mass in church
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tiny Ants - Reception	Polar Express Experience. Children to attend school in their PJ's ready to board the Polar Express.
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1:45pm	Y3,4,5 and 6 parents	KS2 Carol Concert in church
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Whole school	Christmas parties in class
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Whole school	Term ends

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

2024

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Year 6	Visit to Coventry Cathedral
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 6	Visit to St. Chad's Cathedral
Weds 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6	Year 6 Confirmation 6pm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6	SATs week
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6	Alton Castle residential retreat
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3	First Holy Communion Mass 11am



# Diary Dates



2024 Term dates:
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January Pupils return to school
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February HALF TERM
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> February INSET DAY (Pupils return to school on Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> March Term ends
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> April Pupils return to school
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May May bank holiday (school closed)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May HALF TERM
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June Pupils return to school
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July Term ends for students
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> July INSET day

# Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

## Good attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school and to establish positive habits that are necessary for future success.

Through regular attendance pupils can:

- Build friendships
- Develop life skills
- Engage in essential learning and achieve their full potential

All parents / carers should promote good attendance and punctuality and work in partnership with the school.

Please note that unless we have a valid reason, we cannot authorise an absence. A specific reason as to why your child is absent is required. If leaving a voicemail or sending an email, please ensure that you give as much detail as possible as this allows us to code the absence correctly. Going forward, we will not accept reasons such as 'feeling under the weather' or 'they are not 100%' etc., we need specifics. Absence is monitored by on a weekly basis by Miss Watkins and an external agency and persistent absences will be addressed.



## Attendance Matters



We want to celebrate those pupils who arrive at school **on time and every day** so each week we will be holding an attendance raffle.

All children who have attended school every day that week (and have arrived on time) will be entered into a prize draw and during our celebration assembly one child will be chosen at random to win a prize.

The winner of this week's attendance raffle was  
**Aleena in Year 3. Well done!**

Please read carefully as the PE days change from week to week. Each year group will only have 1 PE lesson this week.

Reception – **Thursday**

Y1 – **Wednesday**

Y2 – **Wednesday**

Y3 – **Tuesday**

Y4 – **Tuesday**

Y5 – **Wednesday**

Y6 – **No swimming this week PE on Tuesday**

## PE days



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days, and they should be plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on) and **PLAIN** black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

