

Tel: 0121-770 3168

Fax: 0121-778 0911

 @StAnthonysSch

E Mail: 84office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty



**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 10th November 2023**

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

*Lest We Forget*



*It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back this week.*

*We began our second week of 'Remembrance' with an assembly where we reflected on the feasts of 'All Saints' and 'All Souls'. We placed our St. Anthony's Book of Holy Souls on the prayer focus in the hall and the children were set a mission for this week: in Years 2-6 the pupils have been saying the 'Eternal Rest' prayer each day; and in Reception and Year 1 the children have been using the rhyme, "In November, we remember" at the end of their prayers. The children have demonstrated some fantastic learning and understanding of the importance of remembrance and Armistice Day.*

*As tomorrow is 11<sup>th</sup> November, this afternoon we gathered together as a school community to hold a moment of silence in which we thought about, and prayed for, all those members of the Armed Forces who have served our country. It was an incredibly moving reminder of how respectful the pupils at St. Anthony's are.*

**ST. ANTHONY'S  
RC PRIMARY**



**BOOK OF  
HOLY SOULS**

*"In November, we remember."*



In **Tiny Ants** this week, Willow, Dottie and Sydney helped to design our collaborative art bonfire picture. We used sparkly pipe cleaners to make Catherine Wheels, twisting them around our fingers.



We were very careful as we painted magic pictures using water and fine brushes.



Miss Blair helped us to paint Poppies to remember all of the soldiers from all the wars. On Friday we went on a poppy hunt around our school.

The children asked to listen to 'The Bear Hunt' story,. They went and hid whilst giggling saying they were scared of the bear!



What a fun filled, busy week we have had!



This week in **Nursery** we have been learning about Remembrance day. We started our week with a Collective Worship where we laid a wreath on our prayer table. We used Makaton signs as we said words to help us communicate with one another and remember. We also have been focusing on making the sign of the cross.

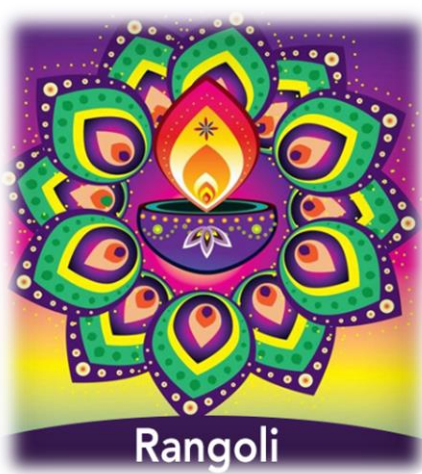


### The Sign of the Cross

1		In the Name of the Father
2		and of the Son
3		and of the Holy
4		Spirit
5		Amen



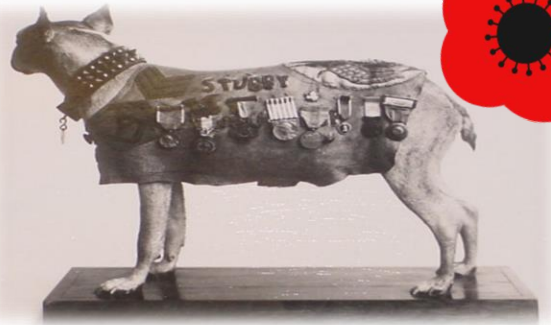

**Reception** have had a lovely first week back after half term. We began our week with a lovely collective worship and discussed people who show care for us. We then practiced our Kagan skills and participated in a 'Travel, Pair Share' to tell our friends ways in which people show that they care for us. Some examples were, 'when Mommy makes me cereal' and 'when my sister plays with me'.



Reception have also been learning all about Remembrance Day and Diwali this week. The children have made beautiful Rangoli patterns using dyed rice and numicons. Well done, Reception!



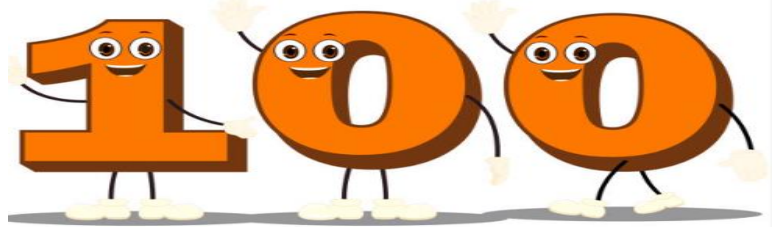
In Global Learning, **Year 1** have been learning about World War 1. We started our lesson by looking at some medals and worked together to think of some questions we would like to ask about them. We went on to learn about the bravery of Lieutenant Stubby, ask your child to tell you who he is!



On Wednesday, we went to VUE cinema to watch 'The Snail and the Whale' and the 'Stick Man' as part of the Into Film Festival. The children had an amazing time and showed exceptional St. Anthony's behaviour at all times.



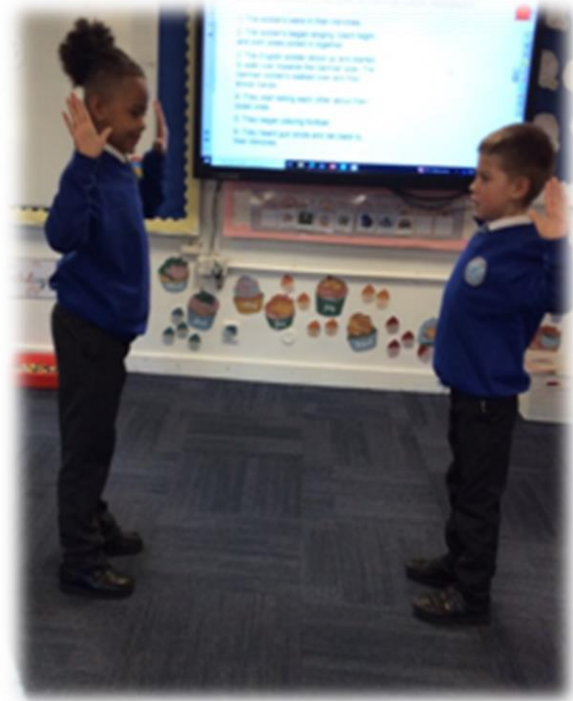
This week in maths, **Year 2** have been looking at ordering numbers from 0-100. We worked together to order the numbers.



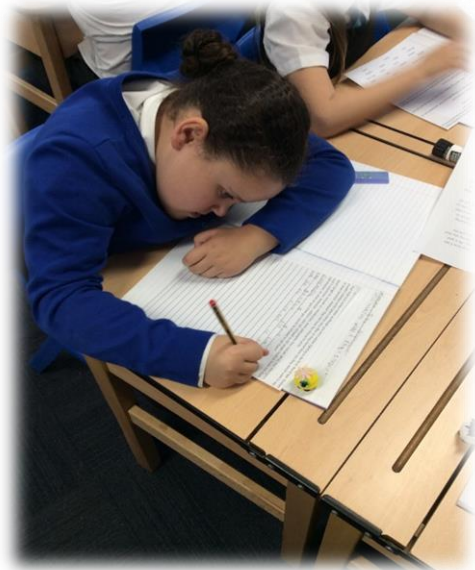
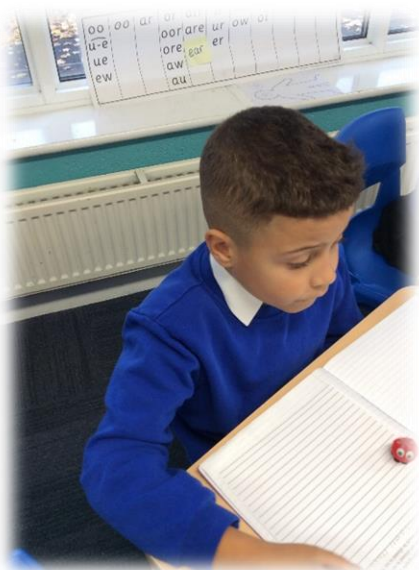
In Science, we have been looking for signs of Autumn. We went out for an Autumn walk around our school. We noticed that the leaves are falling off the trees and that they are changing colour.



This week in **Year 2** we have been researching the WW1 'Christmas Truce'. We have really enjoyed learning about what happened in the truce and have even acted it out ourselves in class. The children have planned to write a recount of the Christmas Truce from a soldier's perspective, which we will be writing next week.



**Year 3** have had an excellent first week back! It's been jam packed - we even had a visit from our quiet critters.



*A huge well done to all of our top bananas!*

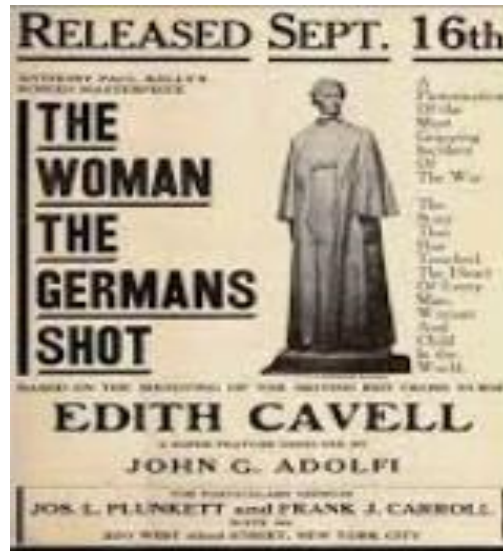
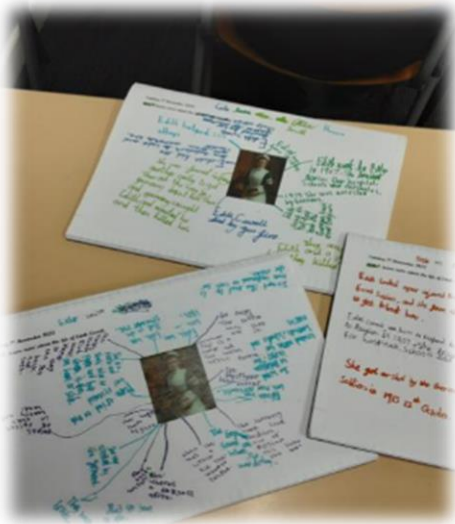


What a brilliant first week back! In Maths, **Year 4** have been answering tricky problem-solving questions and did a 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' quiz to test their knowledge. In English, we wrote fantastic firework poems about Bonfire Night. The children wrote and composed their own poems in small groups before performing to the class.



In music the children wowed Mr Wong, with their beautiful singing and musical vocabulary. We ended the week with a collective worship remembering all those that died in the war. The children shared heartfelt and spiritual prayers and created a wreath.

In PE this week, **Year 5** have been putting together a short dance for Remembrance Day. We used props and poems about remembrance to help us. When we performed our dance pieces, it actually brought tears to the eyes of some of the staff members as they were full of emotion, poignancy and showed great team work.



Global Learning this week was all about **WOMEN AT WAR!** We learned about the life of Edith Cavell.



Money, money, money! In Maths this week, Year 5 have been solving money problems. They have been using coins and notes to solve different equations. Some of these were very tricky but we worked very hard to figure them out as a team.





**Year 6** have finished off another hard-working week with a visit to the cinema to watch 'The Railway Children Return' as part of the IntoFilm Festival. The film linked fantastically with the learning we have done in Global Learning and English about WW1 and WW2; and the children's behaviour was exemplary as always.



# 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.



There were two battles this week and the winners were:

St. Andrew v St. David - St. Andrew's won by 139 points

St. George v. St. Patrick – St. George won by 1 point!

Congratulations to the most valuable players in each house group:

	1 <sup>st</sup> most valuable player (MVP)	2 <sup>nd</sup> most valuable player (MVP)	3 <sup>rd</sup> most valuable player (MVP)
St. Andrew	Ana (y6)	Everleigh (y4)	Noah (y4)
St. David	Charlie (y4)	Dylan (y6)	Patryk (y2)
St. George	Esther (y5)	Yoon (y2)	Freddie (y4)
St. Patrick	Freddie (y6)	Nyle (y5)	Joaquin (y4)

The next battles have now begun: boys v girls in each class.

The winners and MVPs from this battle will be announced on next week's newsletter.



In addition to our in-school battles, we will also be taking part in the national battle:

England Rocks from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November. The winning class in the country will receive £100 worth of AMAZON VOUCHERS, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place receiving £75 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place £50. RULES:

-Every correct answer that a student gives, in any game type, between the hours of 7:30am GMT to 7:30pm GMT each day will contribute to their class and school score

-There is a 60-minute limit of playtime per player, per day.

-Each class has a minimum player count of 10. If fewer than 10 in the class play in the competition, their total will be divided by 10 regardless.



Today we gave out certificates to children who had completed a stage of their story map. Moving forward we will give these out weekly.

We will also be awarding certificates in different categories each week in assembly. This week the focus was on 'most correct answers' and the pupils awarded certificates in each class were:

	Most correct answers	2 <sup>nd</sup> most correct answers	3 <sup>rd</sup> most correct answers
Reception	Fabian	Isabelle	Isobelle
Year 1	Maja	Anna	Nancy C



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and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company

We are currently recruiting for a **School Administrator**. If you are interested in joining our wonderful school, please go to <https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/178261/receptionist-and-administrator/> for more information and application details.

For any queries or further information, please contact Mrs C Clarke on 0121 7703168 or via [office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk)



## School Uniform - Winter



Winter uniform can be worn all year round but is compulsory from the second Autumn term through to the Easter holidays.

### Boys Uniform - Winter

Grey trousers, a white shirt and school tie, blue jumper, black school shoes

### Girls Uniform - Winter

Grey skirt, trousers or pinafore, white blouse with tie, black school shoes (no heels, no sandals). Blue school cardigan or jumper

### Outerwear

Please ensure that your child has adequate outdoor clothing - coats, hats, scarfs, gloves etc. for the colder weather



Our uniform provider is PB Sports who offer an online service

### Uniform - Other

- Dangling earrings, hoops (regardless of whether they are deemed 'child friendly'), rings or necklaces are not allowed to be worn as they present a health and safety risk.
- Stud earrings and a wrist watch are the only jewellery items which may be worn, except when taking part in PE lessons.
- Long hair must be tied up on all occasions with discrete bobbles and ribbons.
- Nail varnish, transferrable tattoos and make-up are not permitted.
- Excessive haircuts are not permitted i.e. tram lines, designs shaved into hair.
- No trainers except for PE or to change into at lunchtime.



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Catholic Multi Academy Company

## Reception Places September 2024

**Is your child due to start Reception in September 2024?**

If so, you need to apply for a place. You can do this by visiting <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/School-admissions> and logging into the portal. Applications are open now and you have until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to apply. Offer day is the 16<sup>th</sup> April. For any queries, please contact Solihull Admissions on 0121 704 6693.



**Our Lady  
and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company

## Nursery Places September 2024

We are now taking applications for spaces for the September 2024 Nursery intake for children born between September 2020 and August 2021.

If you would like more information or an application form, please pop into the school office, call the school office on 0121 7703168 or email us at [office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk)





Do any of our parents work in warehouses, shops, building sites etc. that have pallet collars? If so; if there are any used ones leftover and going spare we would love them for our allotment area to create raised beds. Thank you.



**NHS**  
South Warwickshire  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Solihull School Nursing

Monday to Friday 08:30am - 5:00pm  
**0121 726 6754**

Chat Health (11-19yrs)  
Confidential Text Messaging Service  
**07520 615730**

Parent-Line  
Confidential Text Messaging Service  
**07480 635 496**

FOLLOW US

[www.bit.ly/SolihullSchoolNursing](http://www.bit.ly/SolihullSchoolNursing)



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School is consulting on its admission arrangements for 2025-26 from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> December. You can find a copy of the proposed admission arrangements on our website [https://www.st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk/docs/25-26 Admissions Arrangements.pdf](https://www.st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk/docs/25-26_Admissions_Arrangements.pdf). If you have any comments or views you should send them to the school office at [office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-anthonys.solihull.sch.uk) by 5pm on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as 'MTX') are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling – subject behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life. Children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only spending over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (or other means of payment) could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-Bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour: inability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and knowledgeable journalist with over 10 years of experience in journalism. Previously the editor of both *the Independent* and *the Independent on Sunday*, she has also worked for *the Guardian*, *the Telegraph* and *the Daily Mail*.



**NOS**  
National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

# Primary School Menu

# WEEK TWO

Fresh

Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 29<sup>th</sup> January  
26<sup>th</sup> February, 18<sup>th</sup> March

## Monday

Chicken Bites  
Sliced Potatoes  
Baked Beans

\*\*\*\*\*

Vegetable Nuggets  
Sliced Potatoes  
Baked Beans

\*\*\*\*\*

Homebake -  
Chocolate Surprise  
Cake with Chocolate  
Custard

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Tuesday

BBQ Pulled Pork Pitta  
Mixed Salad  
Herb Diced Potatoes

\*\*\*\*\*

Macaroni Cheese  
Mixed Salad

\*\*\*\*\*

Homebake - Lemon  
Drizzle Cake

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Wednesday

Roast Chicken  
Roast Potatoes  
Broccoli & Cauliflower

\*\*\*\*\*

Vegan Sausage Roll  
Roast Potatoes  
Broccoli & Cauliflower

\*\*\*\*\*

Chocolate Ice Cream  
Sponge

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Thursday

Chilli & Rice

\*\*\*\*\*

Cheese & Potato Pie  
Baked Beans

\*\*\*\*\*

Homebake - Vanilla  
Cookie

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

## Friday

Cod Fish Stars  
Chips  
Peas

\*\*\*\*\*

Cheese & Tomato  
Pizza, Chips  
Peas

\*\*\*\*\*

Homebake - Fairy  
Cakes

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Platter  
Yogurts

Available Daily

Home Baked Bread  
Seasonal Salads



MSC-C-54995



**Solihull**  
METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# Head Teacher's Awards



# Congratulations!

**Reception – Arlo** – For always having a positive attitude towards learning.

**Year 1 – Luna** – For always trying your best and for being a pleasure to teach.

**Year 2 – Jack** – For a really positive start to the term! You have worked so hard.

**Year 3 – Cieran** – For his amazing resilience this week and all of his hard work! 😊

**Year 4 – James** – For working hard and being a great Kagan partner.

**Year 5 – Sathvika** – For being a joy to have in our class.

**Year 6 – Daisy** – For putting 100% into everything she does and showing a real love of learning.



# Diary Dates



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

Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9:30am	R – Y6	Whole school Mass in church – Year 4 leading
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	R and Y6	Height and weight check
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov 9am – 11:30am	Open to all parents	Speech and Language parent workshop
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1pm – 3pm	Open to all parents	Sensory parent workshop
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Y2	Trip – ‘Journey to the Stables’
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 11:30am	Nursery am parents	Nursery morning children’s Nativity in the Nursery classroom
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2:30pm	Nursery pm parents	Nursery afternoon children’s Nativity in the Nursery classroom
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2:15pm	Reception parents	Reception Nativity in church
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Book Fair open after school
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole school	Christmas dinner and jumper day - changed from Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2:15pm	Year 1 and 2 parents	KS1 Nativity in church
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	R – Y6	Whole school Mass in church
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

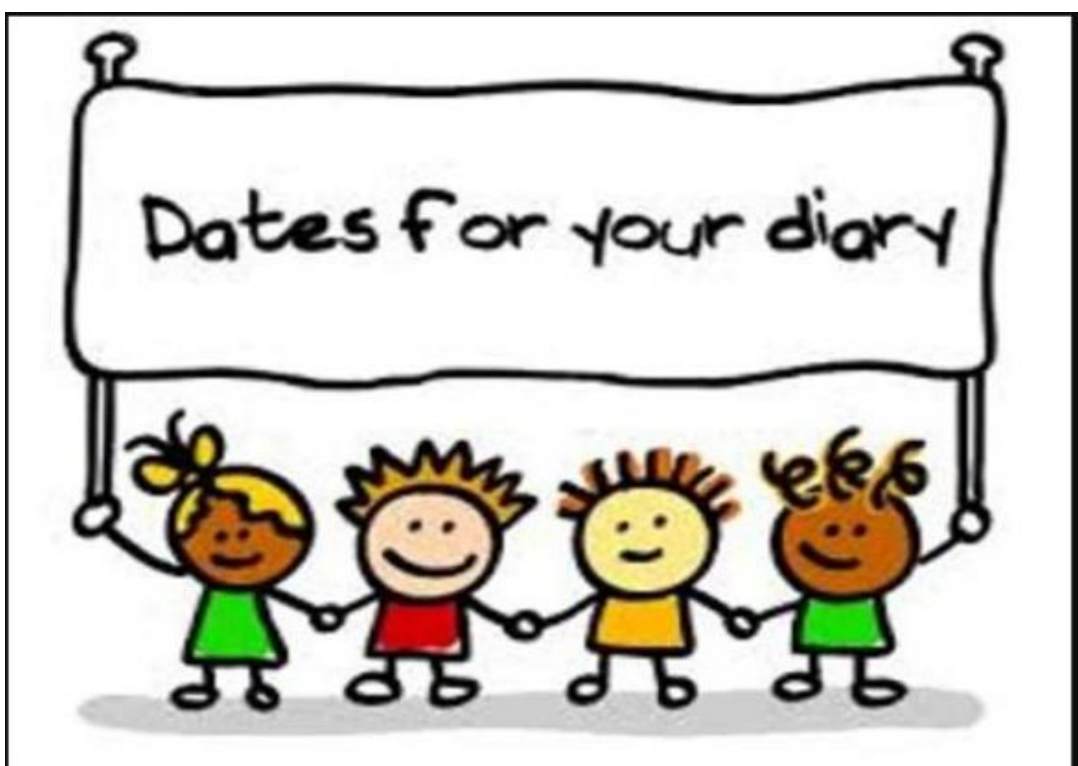
Date and Time	Year Group	Event
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Year 6	Visit to St. Chad’s Cathedral
Weds 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Year 6	Year 6 Confirmation 6pm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6	SATs week
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6	Alton Castle residential retreat



# 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



On a PE day (this information can be found on the school newsletter (which is emailed out every Friday) children must come to school wearing their PE kits. PE uniform is a white t-shirt (this can be plain or it can have the school logo on), **plain black** shorts/joggers/leggings, a blue St Anthony's hoody or a blue school jumper/cardigan and black trainers.

Earrings - must be removed for PE. We would prefer that your child did not wear earrings on a PE day as even if they can remove them, they can easily be lost. If your child cannot remove their earring by themselves, they should definitely not be worn on a PE days as staff are unfortunately unable to assist with this. Earrings cannot be covered by plasters. The only exception to this is if the ears are newly pierced and we will allow plasters for the duration of 6 weeks and earrings should be covered before school (this includes both the front and the back of the earring).

Only small stud earrings are allowed. Dangly, hooped or oversized earrings are not permitted.

Thank you for your continued support and for your cooperation with this matter.

Please read carefully as the PE days change from week to week at the moment.

Reception – Thursday

Y1 – Monday & Tuesday

Y2 – Wednesday & Friday

Y3 – Tuesday & Friday

Y4 – Wednesday & Thursday

Y5 – Monday & Tuesday

Y6 – Swimming Tuesday & PE Thursday

## 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 black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

