



# St. Thomas of Canterbury

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we count down through Advent to the Birth of Christ, we can reflect and look back at the successful term we have had.

I would like to congratulate all of our children for their contributions to our Christmas presentations, including our wonderful Early Years Nativity, Key Stage One 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed it All' and Key Stage Two's Collection of Christmas Carols and Readings. (See Pages 5, 6 and 7).

Most recent events have included our Advent Mass, celebrated with Father John Cunningham (see Page 4) and our very successful Christmas Fayre, which raised just over £1,500! A huge thank you to our very dedicated PTA and to all families who supported this event. Early Years enjoyed a visit from Mr Marvel, whilst Years 1-6 watched "Jack and the Beanstalk" and were treated to popcorn and juice.

Finally, thank you to the parents of our SEND pupils who joined our Coffee Morning.

I wish you all a joyous and peaceful family Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 4th January 2024!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head Teacher



Merry Christmas to you and God bless your family with peace and joy for the year to come.





# Catholic Life of the School:

*Heavenly Father,*

*At this festive holiday time, we pray that You will be with us in all that we do and all that we plan. And today, we particularly want to ask You to bless the holiday celebrations that we will be participating in. We pray that Your love shines during this time and that we reflect You in our actions, attitudes and behaviours. Prevent any discord, we pray, and may we be united together in love and fellowship to Your praise and glory, Amen.*

## Christmas Mass Times

**Mass Times for the Week commencing 16-25 December 2023:**

**All Masses will take place in the Parish Church**

**St Richard of Chichester, Buntingford**

**Saturday 16 December: Vigil Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**6.00pm: The People of the Parish**

**Sunday 17 December: The 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**9.15am: The People of the Parish**

**11.00am: David King, Anniversary**

**Saturday 23 December Vigil Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent**

**6.00pm: The People of the Parish Sunday 24 December NO MASS**

**Monday 25 December**

**9am Mass: The People of the Parish**



# Franciscan Values

Across the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust we work towards a shared set of values, our 'Franciscan Values'. The children are all taught to live out these values in their daily lives and those who demonstrate them well can be nominated for our special Franciscan Values awards. On the feast day of St Francis, the Chaplaincy Team led the whole school in a special liturgy that helped us revisit the values and how we can live them out.



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Franciscan Values Award

### EYFS & KS1 – Infant Award - KINDNESS

Creating a caring community  
To be a kind and loving friend to all.

Sharing compassion for others  
To support those in need in my school  
and in the world.

Reverence for creation  
To take care of God's creations

Peace making  
To help and care for others.



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

## Franciscan Values Award

### KS2 – Junior Award – GRATITUDE

Creating a caring community  
To create opportunities for all to respect, love  
and show kindness to all. To pray.

Sharing compassion for others  
To pray and to take responsible action to  
support those in need within my school,  
home, Parish and my understanding of  
charity.

Reverence for creation  
To understand with compassion and share  
concern while protecting God's creation.

Peace making  
To support reconciliation and forgiveness in  
my own life and others.

## Autumn 2 Winner

Penny G

Kindness and Help-  
ing the Nursery Chil-  
dren



## Autumn 2 Winner

Jaxson

Showing Kindness and Sup-  
port to Younger Children

Congratulations!





# Catholic Life of the School: Our Advent Promises



Father: O God, by  
whose word all things  
are sanctified, pour  
forth thy blessing upon  
this wreath, and grant  
that we who use it may  
prepare our hearts for  
the coming of Christ  
and may receive from  
Thee abundant graces.

Amen

Dear God,  
Thank you for bringing  
love to the world.

Amen ~ Patrick

Dear God,  
Please bring me hope  
and joy in Advent.

Amen ~ Jude







# Catholic Life of the School: Our Advent Mass



We welcomed Father John Cunningham to our school who celebrated our Advent Mass





# Early Years Nativity





# Key Stage 1 Nativity

THE  
**ANGEL**  
WHO  
NEARLY  
MISSED  
IT ALL





**Key Stage Two's  
Production of:**

## *A Presentation of Readings & Carols*



**"Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay"**





# Mr Marvel comes to Early Years!





# Christmas Lunch was on the Menu!





# PTA Christmas Fayre!



Thank you for supporting our Christmas Fayre which raised over £1,500!





# Reminders & Notices:

## Reception Admissions - September 2024

A reminder that applications close on **15th January 2024**

## Nursery Admissions - September 2024

The application deadline is 15th December 2023 however there are still places available at present should there be any late applications. A reminder that Nursery parents in receipt of 30 hours funding need to ensure that they have confirmed their 30 hours eligibility with the HMRC portal. If you have any difficulties, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Courtesy and Care when driving

A reminder to drive slowly and carefully when approaching the school; please also show consideration when parking.

# Key Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 19th December 09:15	Awards Assembly
Tuesday 19th December at 13:30	Break up for Christmas
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	Inset Day (School Closed to pupils)
Thursday 4th January 2024	Pupils back to school (start of Spring Term)

Dear Lord,

We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people. As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school. May you bless us all.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen