



# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

## DECEMBER 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 contribution to our Christmas presentations, including our wonderful Early Years Nativity, Key Stage One "The Big, Little Nativity" and Key Stage Two's Collection of Christmas Carols and readings.

Most recent events have included our Advent Mass, celebrated by Father John Cunningham and our very successful Christmas Fayre which raised just over £4,000!! A huge thank you to our very dedicated PTA and to all families who supported this event. We are especially grateful for the very generous raffle prizes. Early Years enjoyed a visit from Mr Marvel, whilst Years 2 to 6 went to Hertford Theatre to watch "Cinderella and the Magic Slipper".

Finally I wish you all a joyous and peaceful family Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Keating  
Executive Head Teacher



### Content:

Catholic Life

Prayer and Liturgy

Nativity Performances

KS2 Carol Concert

Trust Carol Service

Santa Run

Christmas Treats

PTA Christmas Fayre

Christmas Lunch

Reminders and  
Notices

# Catholic Life and Mission

## CCS GIFT APPEAL

We had a tremendous response to our Catholic Children's Society Gift Appeal. Thank you to all those who donated toys and other gifts.



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



Early Years collected food for their Reverse Advent Calendar. Their donations have been taken to Buntingford Food Bank.

## Year 5/6 Pyjama Day in aid of 'Mary's Meals'

As part of their learning about the CST principle of 'Preferential Option for the Poor' in RE, Year 5/6 selected a charity, Mary's Meals, and chose to fundraise by having a class pyjama day. They raised nearly £100, which will feed 10 school children for a whole school year. Well done Year 5/6!



# Prayer and Liturgy

## Advent



It was an absolute joy to celebrate our Advent Mass in St Thomas of Canterbury Church for the first time in over five years! Thank you to all the parents who joined us.

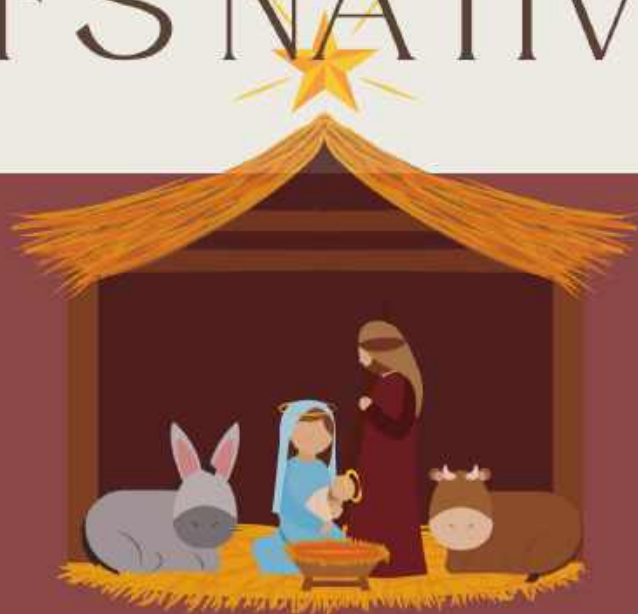
The school is full of Advent signs, from the wonderful purple decorations made by the children adorning the tree, to the Advent wreath we light each week in assembly.



Advent- the time of waiting  
for the Lord



# EYFS NATIVITY





# KSI NATIVITY

THE  
**BIG**  
LITTLE  
NATIVITY





# KS2 CAROL PERFORMANCE

*Follow that star*

# Trust Carol Service



Members of the Chaplaincy Team and school choir were privileged to be part of the first St Francis of Assisi Trust Carol Service. Held in the beautiful St Augustine's Church, Hoddesdon, all the schools sang their own individual pieces as well as collaborating on a number of traditional carols.



Silent  
night  
Holy Night



# Santa Run



# EARLY YEARS AND YEAR 1 MR MARVEL VISIT

Early Years and Year 1 had a 'magical' time with Mr Mavel, enjoying jokes, tricks and even a real rabbit pulled from a hat!



## YEAR 2-6 PANTO TRIP

Years 2 to 6 were captivated by a dazzling pantomime performance of 'Cinderella and the Glass Slipper' at the BEAM Theatre in Hertford. The ice creams were a sweet bonus as well!



# PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

*Thank  
you!*

Thank you for the hard work of all involved. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success and raised an absolutely incredible total of over £4000!



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH



# Other Celebrations...

## HWSSP Skipping Competition



Congratulations to Alice who won Gold in the Sports Partnership Skipathon with an incredible 166 skips in 1 minute, and Liliana, Eleanora, Tolani, Jesse, Amari, Jack who also all won medals in the Early Years category.

## Year 3/4 Classroom

After being temporarily housed in 'The Hub' following a burst pipe just before half term, we are delighted to report that Year 3/4 are back in their classroom with a lovely new carpet!





# REMINDERS AND NOTICES

## Reminders

Reception Admissions-September 2025.  
The deadline for applications is 15th January 2025.

Final call for purchasing EY and KS1 Nativity recordings via the Arbor School Shop-the link will be sent out by 10:00 tomorrow morning at the latest.

## Upcoming Events

- School finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 20th December.
- Monday 6th January-INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)
- Tuesday 7th January-Pupils back to school (Start of Spring Term)
- Thursday 9th January-Mass for the beginning of the Spring Term in the Church. Parents welcome.

*Immanuel, God with us,  
teach us to look for you in the unexpected places,  
to see the signs of your activity in our midst  
and to see your presence in all people.  
Through our actions and prayers,  
may all our global family know your loving presence.  
Amen.*