



## HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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*'In every child there is a space only God can fill' – St Thomas Aquinas*



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December 2021

Dear Parents



### CHRISTMAS LETTER 2021

It's been a really busy, exciting and rewarding term at Holy Trinity – we have endeavoured to make things a little bit more 'normal' for you and the children, whilst still keeping everyone safe and working within the government guidance and our school risk assessments. It has been great to see you on the playground in the evenings and has been so wonderful to welcome you in to our various Christmas Celebrations and Nativity Plays – special moments!

#### Advent 2021

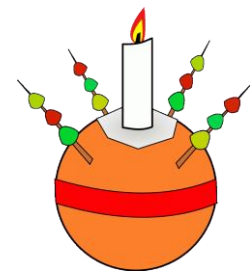
**Y5 and 6 children** led us in a beautiful and reflective Advent Liturgy in church, attended by family members and governors. It was a super way to begin our preparations for Christmas. Thank you children and our Upper KS2 staff team!

**EYFS children** – Nursery children led a beautiful Christmas Celebration which brought such joy – they shared actions to the Christmas Story along with wonderful singing and jingle bells jingling! I am always so amazed at what wonderful things our youngest children achieve in front of a full audience! Credit to all staff involved!

F2P and F2/Y1F led an equally fantastic Nativity Play. Very often in Nativity Plays the Foundation Stage children join the KS1 children and are angels, only coming onto the stage once for a song and a dance – but not at Holy Trinity! Our children performed everything – learnt lines, when to come on and off stage, filled in for absent children at the last minute! True professionals! Again, what an amazing achievement for such young children – all thanks to an amazing team of staff with high aspiration and ambition for our children!

**KS1 children** – now these really are the professionals and it was a real joy to see them in action! No microphone and every single word could be heard. They spoke with confidence and sang joyfully, sharing the Christmas Story beautifully – such confidence and enjoyment! Well done children and our fabulous KS1 team!

**Y3/4 children** are currently working very hard indeed in preparing our annual Christingle Service – what a great pity it has been that this new variant has caused the Trust guidance and our Risk Assessments to change, and this can now only be viewed online. The service will be streamed from church at 2pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please visit the church website for the link or see the message on Dojo.



**Christmas Eve boxes from Asda** – we received a surprise donation of Christmas Eve boxes from Asda this week. A raffle was drawn in the school office and the boxes were delivered to the lucky winners. How wonderful it was to hear the other children clap when they found out who had won rather than have a grump because they didn't win! Such good spirit amongst our children! Many thanks to Asda for their generous support!

#### Retreat Days, Adoration and Reconciliation

We have enjoyed a whole school Retreat Day this term – part of it was to contribute to the Catholic church's Synod preparations. We were asked to consider two actions, one for now and one for the future. The children made lots of brilliant suggestions and we have gone with the following: Develop opportunities for children's personal prayer – something some of them have asked for, so we will deliver! They also suggested more

Retreat Days so these will continue and when guidance allows we would love to involve parents in these in some way too.

Thanks to Fr Joseph and Fr Peter for making themselves available to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the children and an opportunity for Adoration. It's been really important for the children to have some peaceful time out of their usual activities and these have been really well received by staff and children alike.

### **Music Concert**

We enjoyed an amazing Music Concert earlier this week, skilfully delivered by those children who have individual music tuition and the children in Y5D and Y5/6W who have had whole class music tuition this term with Mrs Stanton. The standard was exceptional and everyone performed marvellously and with such confidence. Please keep a look out on Class Dojo for the link to watch the performance at home – it's coming soon...

**Newark Town Winter Music Concert** – some of the older children also performed in a special Winter Concert at the Parish Church at the end of last month. We are so proud of all those involved and grateful to Mr and Mrs Stanton for this wonderful enrichment opportunity. Thanks to the many parents who attended, and to Mr and Mrs Beall and Mrs Zalewska who accompanied the children.

### **Friends of Holy Trinity**

Thanks very much to the Friends of Holy Trinity team for organising the fundraising in a creative way this term and many thanks to all parents for supporting these. We have enjoyed a successful film afternoon and this week - Christmas Parties, hamper raffle, selection boxes and of course a very special message to the children from Santa himself!



Many, many thanks to Santa for taking time out of his exceptionally busy schedule to send such a lovely message to the children.

Thanks to all parents for your support for the various items on sale to raise money for the school – the Christingle Kits, raffle tickets etc. Last year, thanks to your generous support we invested in an improved sound system which was used very well at the F2 and F2/Y1 Nativity Play last week. The second phase of this will be underway soon with an improved projector and screen and we are also in need of developing our Non Fiction library. Every little contribution makes such a difference and offers the children further opportunities. Many thanks for the FHT members for their ongoing support.

### **Donate what you can, take what you need scheme**

Thank you so much for your kind generosity in supporting this new endeavour. We have received so many donations. Items are being distributed and some will be saved for that after Christmas lull which can be a challenging time in families too. If you or anyone you know of needs anything, don't hesitate to ask. Thanks to Mr Westerman and the St Clare House Captains for organising this.

### **Christmas Decoration Competition**

Well done to all of the children who have made special decorations for our school Christmas Tree and to the House Captains for organising this. Our tree has looked fabulous as a result of the children's creativity! The winners will be announced on Friday and House Stars awarded!

### **The wider curriculum**

We pride ourselves on delivering a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum at Holy Trinity. As well as English, Maths and RE the full range of subjects has been delivered across the school this term – Science, History, Geography, Music, DT, Art, Computing, PSHE, PE and French in KS2. It's been a jammed pack and busy term. Our Subject Leaders have been busy finding out how much the children have remembered and we have been wowed by the range of new vocabulary they have learnt and the facts and new knowledge that they have remembered! Much of this is thanks to the use of Kahoot – a new quizzing programme that we have invested in. If your child hasn't already told you about this – do ask them! Thanks very much for your continued support with homework – we have had a range of different pieces of home work completed this term as well as learning spellings and reading. IXL continues successfully particularly in Maths and also TT Rockstars –

please continue to encourage your child to go on these two useful tools to help them improve. You as parents get to see how well they are doing too.

To find out about our wider curriculum, please visit our school website. You can find out what's planned for next term too!

### **Reading**

Our younger children's reading continues to go from strength to strength and the new Read, Write Inc programme has made such a difference to this. The Y2 children undertook the Phonics Screening Check earlier in the month as it was cancelled in July when they were in Y1. Despite the pandemic, the number of children reaching the expected standard in phonics is the highest that the school has ever achieved since its introduction in 2013! Well done children and staff and thank you parents too – your support at home, right from EYFS makes such a big difference.

### **Forest School provision**

Our Forest School provision has continued successfully this term – much to the delight of the children and staff. It has been wonderful to see them enjoying being outside and getting up to some wonderful and creative activities linked to the main curriculum and of course, making tools, lighting camp fires etc is always a highlight! Y3/4 children even made their own charcoal earlier in the term linked to their History Stone Age topic and then used this in their Art topic too! Many thanks to Mrs Smith for her ongoing dedication and inspiration!

**Gardening Club** continues successfully thanks to Mrs Smith and Mrs Hayes – the children have been involved in keeping the School Garden in good order and have also supported Sconce and Devon Park with community activities too.

**Our Eco Team** are continuing this year once again – we have very strong links made to the Eco agenda in our wider curriculum and we are hoping to achieve the Green Flag Award later in the year.

### **Christmas Masses at Holy Trinity Church**

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm and Midnight Christmas Day: 10.00am – all welcome!

Thank you so much to your wonderful children for such a great term. We really are blessed to have such a wonderful community. The way they play together at lunchtime and support one another is not only a credit to our school ethos and dedicated team but also is testimony to the wonderful community we are part of and the support of all families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing team of staff for all of their hard work and dedication this term. It has been a long, busy term and so much has been achieved. They are now well and truly ready for such a very well deserved break. Thank you everyone.

### **Finally...**

I wish you all a wonderful, happy, safe and peaceful Christmas with your families. Please look after each other and keep one another safe.

We look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready for 2022 and the hope that it will bring on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

With my very best wishes to you all

*Julia Summers*

Mrs Julia Summers  
Head Teacher