

*'Where charity and love are, God is there'*

## Newsletter 20.12.2024– Term 2 -Week 6

### Reflection:

As we approach the end of another remarkable term, I find myself filled with gratitude and joy for the incredible spirit that permeates our school.

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of festive cheer and meaningful reflection, truly embodying the essence of the Christmas season.

This week, we celebrated the third week of Advent with a beautiful whole school Mass. It was heartwarming to see our entire school community come together in prayer and contemplation, reminding us of the true meaning of this special time of year.

The joy of Christmas has been felt throughout the school. From the twinkling decorations in our corridors to the sound of carols travelling through the school, there's been a magical atmosphere that has touched us all.

As we prepare to close our school doors for the holiday break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents and carers. Your unwavering support throughout this term has been invaluable, your partnership has been crucial to our success.

Your commitment to our school community does not go unnoticed, and it's this collaborative spirit that makes St Nicholas of Tolentine such a special place. As we look forward to the new year, I'm filled with optimism for what we can achieve together. To all our families, I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and precious moments with your loved ones. I look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year, refreshed and ready for new adventures in learning.

**God of light, shine forth,  
show us how  
to bring hope to others.**

**God of mercy, help us  
to comfort your people  
and share in their joy.**

**God of hope, make us an  
Advent people,  
preparing the way for life  
in all its fullness.  
Amen.**



### Year 5 and 6 Athletics Festival

On Tuesday, we took 20 dedicated Year 5/ 6 children to an Indoor Athletics competition at City Academy. The event saw us take on 7 schools at a variety of track and field events, with a chance at qualifying for the County Finals. St Nicks really shone in both the boys and girls competition and I was particularly impressed in the children's listening skills as there was a lot going on! I was also proud to see the children getting behind each other and working so well as a team, including being the loudest support, even if children were finding an event tricky. Most notably, our boys and girls won both the boys and girls 4 x 1 relay... I think we could have some future Usain Bolt's on our hands!

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### St Nicks FC – Year 4

Well done to the Year 4 football team, who took on Easton on Monday! Unfortunately, they lost the game 2-1 but made a great effort. There was a great performance from Ivana in goal, Abuzar in defence and Erfan up front! Well done to Noah for finally getting the ball in our team!

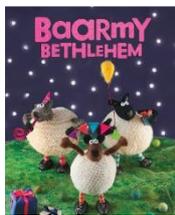
We are looking for players with great attitude and teamwork to call up to the Year 5/6 teams!



### Barmy Bethlehem

We began our Christmas Festivities with our Nativity from EYFS, Year 1,2 and 3. What a show! They blew us away with how amazing they all were. They really did capture the story of the Birth of Jesus. The dancing sheep kept us all moving with their enthusiasm.

This is such a special time of year and this really started off our celebrations. Thank you to all the staff for their dedication and providing the children with such wonderful opportunities.



### The Pantomime comes to St Nicholas (Oh no it didn't.....Oh yes it did!)

What an atmosphere on Tuesday. The whole school were treated to a Christmas Treat of Beauty and the Beast. Laughter and cheer filled the hall as the children were taken on a magical journey. It was such a wonderful sight to see the children so excited, as well as the adults!

This was all thanks to you as parents, all money raised at our fairs go straight back to the children and this was paid for through money raised through the year.



### Family Carol Concert

On Wednesday we welcomed families back to St Nicholas Church to join us for our annual Carol Concert. Fr Richard always comments on how wonderful our children sing. The sounds of carols filled the church and it was a great joy to have us all singing our communal songs together. Thank you to the families who were able to come along and support us, we really hope you enjoyed it.





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### Christmas Fair

The hall was filled with Christmas Cheer as we opened our Christmas fair. There was some delicious hot food to enjoy, sweet treats, games and of course the Tombola – which is always a great hit.

We were blown away with the Raffle prize donations we received, some people won some amazing Christmas gifts. Thank you for coming along to support, we will let you know how much we raised once it is all counted.



### Friday Funday – Talent Show

We finished the week with our annual talent show for KS2. This is always a highlight of the year and the children are so excited to take part. Our children are simply incredible, we have so many wonderfully talented children at St Nicholas. We were treated to singing, dancing, gymnastics, jokes and a whole lot more! Well done to all the children who got up and performed. Thank you to everyone who came along to support our children.



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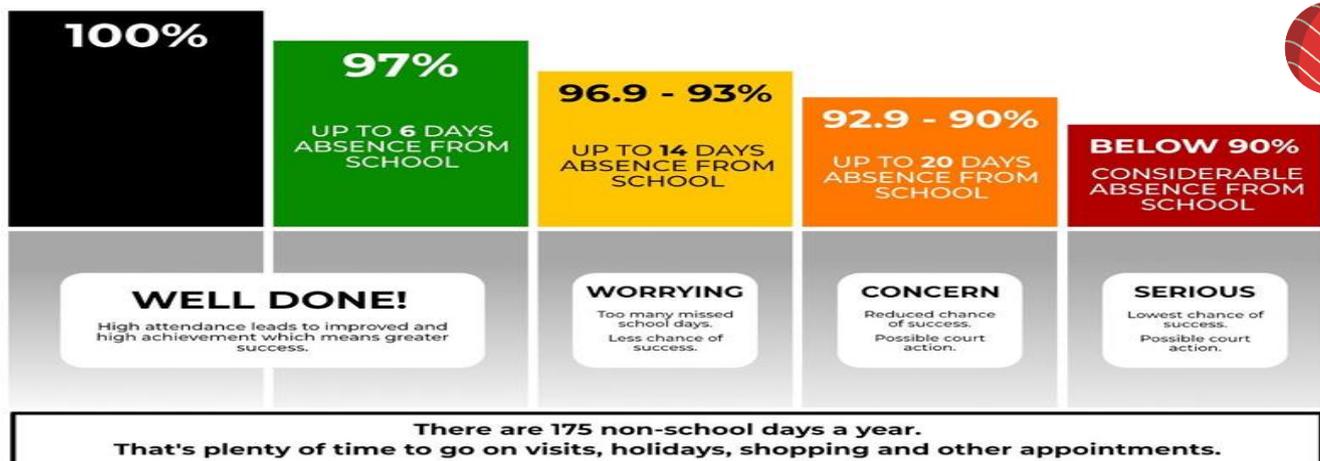
## Attendance

Thank you to those children who attend school regularly and on time. We will continue to monitor closely, if attendance continues to be a concern, we will send out an earlier letter than the end of term. The target for all pupils is set at **96.1%** and any figure below is a concern.

Any classes who achieve a 100% attendance for the week will be able to have a non-school uniform day the following week.

Class	Yearly Attendance	This week's attendance	Late sessions this week
Diamond Class	90.5%	83.8%	7
Emerald Class	93.9%	93%	8
Ruby Class	95.9%	92%	12
Amethyst Class	94.2%	82.9%	2
Sapphire Class	96.4%	96.5%	8
Topaz Class	93.9%	87.4%	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>42</b>

## WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Thank you to those who attend regularly. Please remember to phone the school office if your child is going to be absent. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you and then may also make a home visit if we are unable to contact you. Thank you to those who arrive on time. Remember, children can go straight to class from 8:40am or attend breakfast club from 8am if necessary. There is also access to the walking bus if required. If your child is constantly late to school this can affect their self-esteem and they could be missing out on valuable reading, phonics or Maths activities and interventions.



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Principal: Mrs Rachael James

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**Dates for your Diary:**

**Term 2**

<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	INSET Day
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	School starts back for all children

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James