

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

## Term 2 Newsletter 05.12.25

What a vibrant and enriching few weeks we've experienced together! Our school has been alive with meaningful activities and wonderful opportunities for our pupils. Our chaplains recently represented our school beautifully at the Cathedral, participating in their commissioning service with Bishop Bosco. This was a special moment that truly helps us live out our Catholic Mission and demonstrates the importance of service and community. We celebrated the Jubilee year of Hope with a whole school gathering, where we reflected on our pledges and discussed how we can continue to embody hope in our daily lives. This collective moment of reflection was truly inspiring. Our whole school STEAM day was particularly exciting, with each class focusing on an inspirational scientist. It was wonderful to see our pupils exploring and engaging with scientific discovery in such creative ways. Christmas came early to our Breakfast club, thanks to the generosity of Magic Makers, who provided us with numerous games for our children to enjoy each morning. The joy and excitement this brought to our pupils has been wonderful to witness. We were delighted to see so many parents attend our recent parents' evening. These conversations are crucial opportunities to celebrate our pupils' achievements and discuss their next steps in learning. As we entered the Advent season, Father Richard led our school Advent Mass, a beautiful time of reflection where he blessed our Advent wreaths. This moment helped us pause and consider the deeper meaning of this special time of year. Our pupils have also been enjoying numerous school trips, which continue to enhance our curriculum and provide rich, meaningful learning experiences beyond the classroom. These experiences remind us of the vibrant, supportive, and dynamic learning community we are privileged to be part of.

### **Matthew 24: 37-44 The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year A**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay alert! Nobody knows when I will come back so you must always be ready. You can be sure that if the owners of a house knew at what time of night a thief was coming, they would stay awake and wouldn't let the thief break in. So, you must always be ready, because you do not know when I shall return."

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditional Advent wreaths have a candle to light on each Sunday of Advent which reminds us of the light that Christ brings into our world.

*"Advent is like a springtime, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

Advent helps us get ready for Christmas and reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Advent is a time to make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours.

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in each one of us memories of goodness." Pope Benedict XVI*

**Our mission this week: how can you prepare well through Advent – to 'stay awake', to be ready to welcome Jesus?**



**Dear Lord Jesus, help us to  
'stay awake' and to be  
aware of your  
presence in the people  
that we meet in this  
Advent season. Amen.**

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### Chaplaincy Commissioning

On Thursday 20th November, our Chaplaincy team attended Clifton Cathedral with Mrs Rosolek-Field and Miss Hassett, where they were commissioned by Bishop Bosco. This marks the start of their chaplaincy journey for the year. Chaplaincy plays a vital role in deepening our Catholic life, leading prayer and worship, and helping our community live out Gospel values. We are incredibly proud of our chaplains and look forward to the positive impact they will have in school.



### Jubilee Year of Hope

On Friday 21st November, we marked the Jubilee Year of Hope with a whole-school reflective assembly. Together, we revisited the pledges we made, explored how we live with hope, and how we can bring hope to others. Every child created a piece of bunting symbolising hope, which our chaplains will join together to form a beautiful whole-school display. This year is an important moment for the Catholic Church, reminding us that hope is a gift from God and a call to action in our lives.

### Year 6 Visit Life Skills

Recently, they visited the Life Skills Centre in Bristol, an immersive, interactive village designed to teach life-saving safety skills. Throughout their visit, our pupils explored essential topics related to personal development, safety, and well-being through hands-on activities, group discussions, and realistic scenarios. The indoor village provided an engaging environment where children could learn crucial life skills. Our Year 6 pupils were incredibly enthusiastic about their experience, demonstrating remarkable engagement and eagerness to learn.



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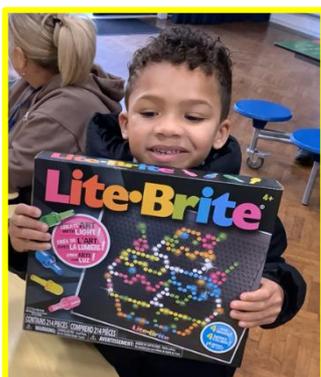
### **Amethyst and Ruby visit Bristol Zoo Project**

Amethyst and Ruby class embarked on a wonderful educational journey to Bristol Zoo, exploring animals and habitats despite the chilly and rainy weather. Our pupils demonstrated remarkable curiosity, engaging enthusiastically with the zoo keepers and asking insightful questions about the different habitats they encountered. The trip provided a fantastic opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom, allowing them to develop deeper knowledge about animal environments. Upon returning to school, the children were bubbling with excitement, eagerly sharing stories about their favourite animals. They even found time to enjoy some playtime in the park, making the day even more memorable. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff and the parent helpers who made this enriching experience possible.



### **Christmas came early to Breakfast Club**

Christmas came early to our Breakfast Club this week! We were delighted to welcome Magic Makers, who brought an incredible array of new games and toys for our pupils to enjoy. The atmosphere was electric, with children playing together and creating wonderful moments of joy and connection. These wonderful gifts have added extra excitement to our morning club, providing more opportunities for fun and interaction. I'm particularly proud of how our pupils embrace these opportunities to play and learn together. As a reminder, Breakfast Club remains free for all children and runs from 8am to 8.30am each morning. The generosity of Magic Makers and the enthusiasm of our pupils truly capture the spirit of our school community.



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# STEAM DAY

Year 1 have been learning about Sir David Attenborough and his important work teaching the world about animals and nature. This week, the children created their own "mini nature documentaries." After exploring simple animal facts, they each drew an animal and practised presenting information in their best 'Attenborough-style' voice. Some children even recorded their documentaries using the iPad. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to build confidence, practise speaking skills, and celebrate their growing curiosity about the natural world.



On STEAM Day, Reception learned all about Mae Jemison and why she is such an inspiring astronaut. We decorated our own space helmets, built rockets, explored colourful planets, and even met some aliens on our space adventure!



In Ruby and Amethyst Class, we have been learning all about Charlotte Armah, who is a nutritionist. We explored the different food groups and discovered how making healthy choices helps our bodies to grow and stay strong. We have linked this learning about nutrition to our DT cooking project.

Year 5 learnt more about Maggie Aderin-Pocock and discussed her values and virtues, applying them to their own lives. They also researched how space travel has evolved over time, creating timelines, complete with diagrams. They predicted how space travel would look in the future by designing their own space craft!

Year 6 have been learning about Greta Thunberg and the science behind climate change and the effects it is having on the planet. After a bit of research, we used what we learned to design our own posters and banners that could be used in a climate change protests.

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### Uniform

We are all so proud to be a part of St Nicholas school, and we have all seen first-hand the improvements made within the school. This year we are focusing on uniform, all children **MUST** wear correct uniform each day.

- Grey/black trousers, tailored shorts or skirt
- Pale blue polo shirt or shirt (ties to be worn with shirts)
- Navy blue jumper/cardigan
- Plain black shoes

### PE KIT

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black/grey jogging bottoms or shorts
- Navy Jumper
- No Sports Sets
- Trainers or daps

All children have been provided with 1 free school jumper to support us in maintaining high standards of uniform.



**We are now using Arbor as the main source of communication for parents, at the moment we only have 49% of parents signed up. Please ensure you have signed up to be able to access all communication.**



Check on your child from anywhere

Make payments on the go

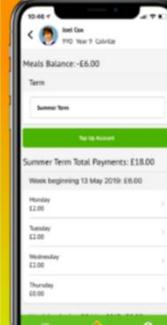


**Arbor** App & Portal

- View your child's Timetable, Clubs and Attendance
- Pay for School Meals
- View your child's Guilford Golds!
- Update your details
- Receive instant messages
- Sign up to trips and after-school clubs

No more forms!







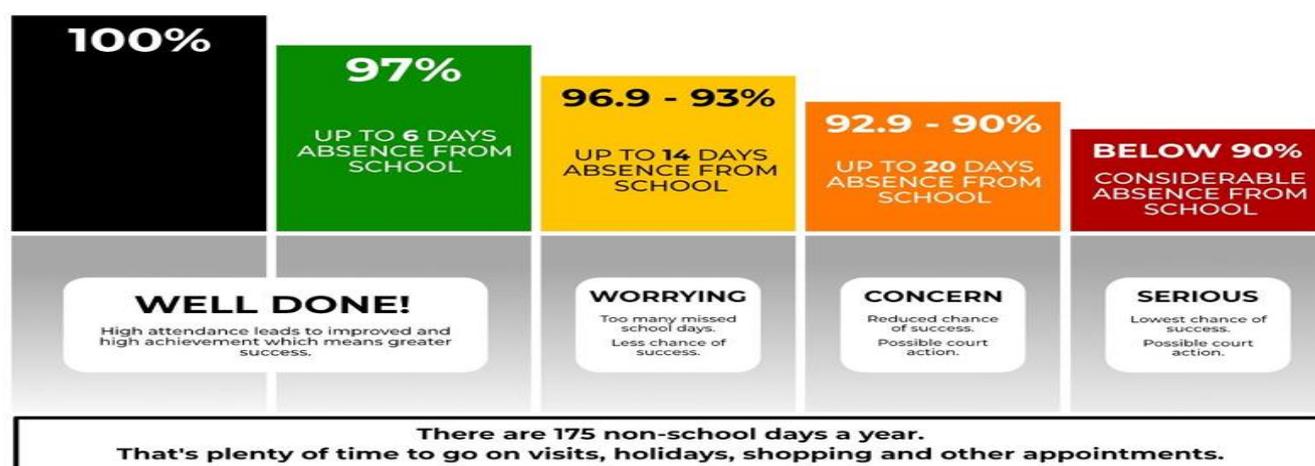
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Thank you to those children who attend school regularly and on time. We will continue to monitor closely, if attendance continues to be a concern, we will send out an earlier letter than the end of term. The target for all pupils is set at **96.1%** 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	97.1%	90%	6
Emerald Class	86.5%	90%	10
Ruby Class	96.1%	98.8%	10
Amethyst Class	96.1%	94.1%	10
Sapphire Class	97.9%	97.6%	5
Topaz Class	94.3%	92.9%	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.8%</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>52</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.



St Nicholas of Tolentine RC Primary School,  
Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol, BS5 0TJ  
Tel: 0117 3772260 / 0117 3772259  
Email: [school@stnt.newmancatholictrust.com](mailto:school@stnt.newmancatholictrust.com)  
[www.stnicholas.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.stnicholas.bristol.sch.uk)  
Principal: Mrs Rachael James

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#### Term 2 Dates

Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am -11.00am EYFS Open morning admissions 2026/2027
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Basketball tournament – Selected Children
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Pop up Prayer Space 1.30pm – Family Forest Session Christmas Dinner – Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School Disco
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Mini Panto in school for children
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm – EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Nativity
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm – Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 Carol Concert
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Christmas Mass – All Welcome Last Day of Term 2
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School starts for all pupils
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices – Birmingham Trip

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs R James