3rd December 2018

**Statement to live by: I can work, rest and pray each day**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is the season of Advent- a time to prepare and wait for something wonderful- the celebration of Christ’s birth. Advent is a special time especially in our Catholic Primary school. It is also an incredibly busy time with staff and children preparing for nativities, autumn assessments, Menphys, Year 6 residential to the Briars and the Pantomime trip and of course what preoccupies a lot of the children’s thoughts , the countdown to Father Christmas arriving! In the midst of this flurry of activity, we are invited to pause and wait for the Lord by attending to the spiritual and preparing our hearts and minds for His coming. So Happy Advent and use this time to reflect and prepare for the special family time of Christmas.

**Menphys**

This Friday is the Menphys Carol concert at De Montfort hall. Good luck to all of our children participating in this wonderful event.

**Christmas plays**

Our Foundation 2 nativity is on Friday 7th December at 9.15.

Key Stage 1 Nativity is on Wednesday 12th December at 9.15 and Thursday 13th December at 2pm

**Photographs**

At the Christmas production it is a fabulous opportunity to take photographs and sometimes videos as your children perform. When you come in to watch you will be asked if you are taking photographs to sign to say that photographs/videos involving other children will not be shared on social media.

Also when you are taking photographs or videos can you please be considerate of other adults who are trying to watch the performance by not standing or blocking the views of others. It can also be very off putting for the children when they are trying so hard to remember their lines and songs to see lots of phones and videos. We will give opportunities for photographs at the end of the plays and thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Christmas Dinner**

Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 19th December. Children can come to school in a Christmas jumper and we will be asking for £1 donation for Save the Children.

**E-safety**

As Christmas approaches and particularly as many children tend to receive new mobiles,  
laptops and tablets for Christmas it is vital that we keep children safe online. As a school we have access to an online company called the Child Protection company. By taking the Parent e-safety course you can work with your child to keep them safe on the internet and learn more about e-safety yourself as a parent.

The link to start courses is:   
  
<http://www.childprotectioncompany.com/CPC/L/8FF74C51F4>

You may also want to have a look at our e-Safety videos on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXECNrRQlJ_SA2LJ4tQ0VUOB9hSdql10D>

**Parking**

A reminder to all parents and carers to be considerate when they are parking and driving close to the school. The new pencils on the corners of Newstead Road should be left clear. The pavement has been dropped on Ratcliffe Road to make it safer to cross, please DO NOT park too close to them. If necessary park a little further away from school and walk the extra part. Thank you to the majority who do park and drive carefully around the school area.



**Sporting news**

**School football update**

The yr5/6 school football team attended more fixtures last week & yet again performed to a high standard in bitterly cold conditions. Competing in 3 fixtures they drew 1-1 in the first game against Braunstone Frith, coming back from 1-0 down after a bit of a slow start to dominate the second part of the fixture & being very unlucky not to win (the opposition goalie making some outstanding saves). In the next two fixtures against St John Fisher & Montrose the boys were back on top form dominating both games winning 4-0 & 5-0 respectively. Goals on the day were scored by Evan (6) Dan (2) Fionn & Fintan. Well done boys!!!

Yr 5 goals tournament: Our year 5 team entered the goals tournament yesterday in a very confident mood & proved that they had every reason to do so, winning the whole competition with some very impressive team performances. They won their two fixtures convincingly scoring 9 goals & conceding 3. Well done Yr5!!

Yr 6 goals tournament: Our Year 6 team showed some great team spirit in a very tough competition at goals yesterday & did the school proud with the manor they played their fixtures. They ended up in third place drawing one game & losing the other, but I am extremely proud of the commitment & determination they showed throughout the matches. Well done Yr 6!!!

**Cross country**

**Race day 3 Prestwold Hall**

The cross country team entered the final race meet of the Prestwold hall series on Saturday in confident mood after fantastic performances at the previous meets. Not even the abysmal weather & unbelievably tough track conditions they faced could break their positive mind-sets!! The year 3 girls started of a fantastic run of performances, in the muddy conditions with Fionnuala Brotherton finishing an amazing 11th & Florence Gribon powering home to claim a fantastic 72nd place finish. It was now the turn of the year 3 boys, after a very very messy start to the race the boys worked themselves through the field & all finished off the race in a strong manor with Sean Devlin on his first race coming 107th, Thomas Baker 128th & James Hughes 129th , well done boys on those strong finishes!! This weekend we only had 2 runners from year 4 due to other commitments. For the girls we had Sophia Palmares who showed the grit & determination she always possess & she finished a fantastic 51st. For the year 4 boys we had James Manville-Logie & James again continued his progress by finishing 140th!!

After a short break for presentations & yet more wind & rain it was the turn of our more experienced runners. For year 5 girls we had Eliana Komakech & she did not let us down, producing a fabulous 54th placed finish. Now it was the turn of the year 5 boys who had the opportunity to claim a team prize due to their consistent performances, so the pressure was on!! If they were feeling any pressure they didn’t show it as they went out & performed tremendously with Seb Fitzwilliam leading the team home in 33rd place, closely followed by William Baker in 44th & then Samuele Pagani finished off strongly in 83rd position!! This capped off a fantastic series of runs by the year 5 boys & they claimed 3rd place overall in the county team standings…. Well done boys!! It was now down to our year 6 teams to complete the fantastic performances off with a strong finish. For year 6 girls we had Ashanti Ryan & Niamh Spriggs competing. Again the girls showed the desire to be the best they can be & performed amazingly well on what was now a mud bath of a course. Ashanti as always finished strongly, coming a fabulous 31st & Niamh showed all her will & determination to finish 73rd place, well done to both of you.

Now onto what can only be described as The Dream Team, our year 6 boys. This team define the word consistency. At every single race, no matter what the conditions are, this group of boys will always deliver the goods. Before the race started they were sat top of the leader board in the boy’s team event & they knew they had to deliver their consistent performances again to take the team title. We also had Milo Brotherton in contention for the boy’s individual title!! As the race started the boys all got into racing mode very quickly, getting their position in the field that they desired. For Milo that was right at the front & from that moment onwards it was just a case of how far would he win by?!! Milo secured a comfortable 1st place finish & the boys overall county title, with race figures of 2nd,1st,1st , congratulations Milo on your well-deserved individual title. All eyes now turned to the team event & our consistent performers yet again delivered the goods. Fionn Trinder showed his stamina & amazing speed to come home in 15th place, Evan Thornton grinded it out on the finishing stretch to finish 36th, Matt Byrne paced his run lovely & took 50th place, closely followed by Alex Noworol in 51st place & Jake English finished like a rocket to claim 78th place!! It was now just a matter of the organisers doing the maths for the overall year 6 boys’ team title & after an anxious wait the boys were not disappointed, taking the gold medal spot!! Well done boys you have done yourselves & the school proud.

Overall it has been a fantastic series of races & I am so proud of each & every child who has competed. I would like to thank all the parents who have transported the children over to Prestwold Hall on Saturday mornings & supported the team fantastically well. A special mention to Mr & Mrs Brotherton who have supported not only the children, but myself through my first year of cross country events. Without your help & support all the kids achievements may not have been possible, Thank You!!

Many thanks

Chris Gowan

**Last day of school!**

On December 21st we will be going to the Peepul Centre to watch Snow White. All children will need a packed lunch and are to wear school uniform.

Please note that school closes earlier at 2.30.

God bless,

Mrs Crosse

Headteacher

**Dates for the diary**

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| Wednesday 5th December | 12.30 cross country Knighton Park |
| Thursday 6th December | 10am drop in mass Mrs Davidson’s class |
| Friday 7th December | 9.15 F2 Nativity to parents  2.30- celebration assembly  7pm Menphys Carol concert |
| Sunday 9th December | 9am Mass led by Mr Plant’s class |
| Wednesday 12th December | Year 6 residential to the Briars  KS1 Nativity to parents in the morning |
| Thursday 13th December | 10am Drop in mass Mrs Whitmore / Mrs Slater’s class  KS1 Nativity to parents 2pm |
| Friday 14th December | 2.30- Celebration assembly  Year 6 return from the Briars |
| Wednesday 19th December | Christmas dinner day- Christmas jumper day! |
| Thursday 20th December | 10am Whole school mass |
| **Friday 21st December- see separate letter** | Whole school trip to the theatre to watch Snow white at the Peepul Centre. With thanks to the Friends who have funded the trip- further details to follow.  **School closes at 2.30** |
| **Merry Christmas**  **Christmas holidays Monday 24th December – Monday 7th January 2019** | |
| **Happy New Year!!!!!** | |
| Tuesday 8th January 2019 | School opens at 8.40 |
| Thursday 10th January | 10am Whole school mass |