



GOVERNORS UPDATE



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

Students and staff are busy getting ready for one of the most important times in a Catholic school's life; a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

With so many events planned for the next few weeks, I would urge you to have a look at the important dates for your diary section. We would love to see you at our Christmas events supporting your child, the school and joining us in enjoying this wonderful time of year.

Many thanks

Cathy Butterworth

Chair of Governors

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2019

PRIMARY APPLICATIONS

If your child was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, you must apply for a Primary School Reception place for September 2019. (Applications are required for all children with a 4th birthday between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019).

SECONDARY APPLICATIONS

If your child is in the final year of primary education (Year 6), you must apply for a Secondary School Year 7 place for September 2019. (Applications are required for all children who are in their final year at a primary school).

If you live in Blackpool (pay council tax to Blackpool) –

APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE ON-LINE AT:
www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Before you complete and submit your application you are advised to read Blackpool Council's guide for parents at: www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The on-line system offers a quick and secure means of applying for places. Paper applications and information booklets are available from schoolaccess@blackpool.gov.uk or telephone 01253 476637.

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019
PRIMARY APPLICATIONS – BY 15TH JANUARY 2019
SECONDARY APPLICATIONS – BY 31ST OCTOBER 2018

Applications received after the closing dates will be processed after all those which are received on time. If you apply late this may reduce your chances of an offer for one of your preferred schools.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

If you pay your council tax to Wyre or Fylde then you will need to access Lancashire's on-line application system at www.lancashire.gov.uk. You can still express preferences for Blackpool schools on Lancashire's application system.

www.blackpool.gov.uk

Blackpool Council



Enrichment & Sports Clubs

If your child attends **Science, Story, Drama, I.C.T., & Forest School** their last session will be next week (**week commencing 3rd December**)

If your child attends **Football, Choir, Athletics and Hi 5** their last session will take place during the **week commencing the 10th December**.

Christmas Holiday

A reminder that school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 21st December at 1:30pm. School will re-open on Monday 7th January.



Staff News

This week Ms Lawton has joined the SJV team in the school office.

She comes with a wealth of experience and is looking forward to meeting you all!

Christmas Dinner Day

If your child normally has a packed lunch, they should have brought home a letter offering them the opportunity to have Christmas lunch with us on Wednesday 12th December. We could do with knowing either way so please return the slip to school if you have not already done so. A payment of £2 should be paid into school meals on Parentpay. If you have not had a letter, please pop into the school office. Thanks

Dates for your diary:

Year 3 & 4 Advent Service—Friday 30th November @ 4pm in church

Year 3 trip to Blackpool Tower—Tuesday 4th December

Nursery nativity—Wednesday 5th December @10am and 2pm

Year 5 trip to The Winter Gardens & Blackpool Tower—Wednesday 5th December

PTA Christmas Shopping & Film Night—Thursday 6th December

Reception nativity—Friday 7th December @10am and 2pm

Year 6 Parent Workshop—Monday 10th December @2:30pm

Year 4 Parent Workshop—Tuesday 11th December @2:15pm

Whole school watching pantomime performance—Tuesday 11th December (am)

Christmas lunch and jumper day—Wednesday 12th December

Year 1 & 2 Nativity—Thursday 13th December @ 2pm & 4pm

Year 4 Cornet performance for parents—Monday 17th December @ 1:45pm

Year 5 & 6 Carol Service—Tuesday 18th December @4pm

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party—Wednesday 19th December

KS2 Christmas Party—Thursday 20th December

School Breaks Up for Christmas—Friday 21st December @ 1:30pm

Admission Policy Notice

We would like to let you know that we are entering a consultation period to amend our Admission Policy. A copy of the full proposed admission arrangements for September 2020 is available on the school website and comments should be forwarded to Mrs Allen or Mrs Butterworth by 10th December 2018.

Advent is nearly here!

Sunday marks the first day of Advent, the 4 week period before Christmas. Advent means 'coming' or arrival, and is basically a preparation time- a time for taking stock and reflecting. The readings in mass during this time focus on 2 things: the historical event of Jesus' birth and the Christian hope that He will return at the end of time, which is the focus of this week's reading.

Advent is supposed to make us take time to prepare rather than jump straight ahead to Christmas. That can become difficult when the decorations go up, the same 15 Christmas songs play on a rotation and TV is full of adverts of what to spend on Christmas presents and food.

In school we will be working hard to speak more about Advent rather than Christmas, as preparing ourselves spiritually is our focus during this time.

We remember how Jesus said to his disciples, *'There will be signs in the sky and in the heavens. On earth, people will be confused and nervous about the future.*

Then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things start to happen, stand up straight and hold your heads up high because freedom is coming.

Stay awake and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen before you stand before the Son of Man'.

Travelling Posada

During the season of Advent, each family will have the opportunity to bring home a travelling Mary and Joseph so that you can share the Christmas story with your children at home. This was a huge success last year so we will be continuing this again – look out for your purple pack!



November – Remembrance

We dedicated the month of November to remembrance as a special time to pray for those who have died and gone before us. In particular, on Remembrance Day we mourned for all those who have died in wars around the world. Class 4AD performed a wonderful class assembly which allowed us to stop and reflect on the sacrifices these people made for others.



Sacramental Programmes Update

This year, we will be having a relatively quiet year for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist – we now just have one year group to prepare as opposed to two! This year, they are being offered to all Year 3 children, in line with Diocesan guidance. A HUGE thank you to all those of you in Year 3, who have signed your children up to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the enrolment mass on Sunday. The sessions for Reconciliation begin in school next Monday 3rd December. Year 6 children have successfully completed the Sacramental programme for Confirmation and will receive this Sacrament in St. John Vianney's church this coming Thursday at 6:30pm.



The Year of the Eucharist

This year, all the Catholic Diocese across England are celebrating the Year of the Eucharist, which was marked in Catholic schools last Friday as we held a morning of Eucharistic Adoration. Each year group went across to church right through from Reception to Year 6 and spent time adoring Jesus. It was an extremely respectful and reverent occasion and the children behaved impeccably – they were all a real credit to our school and their families. Our Bishop Paul Swarbrick talks about the importance of Mass and going to Holy Communion and calls everyone in the school community to holiness in this particular year, which began yesterday on the Feast of Christ the King. Please use this link to watch his short video clip – it really is a very inspiring clip that helps to portray the reasons why as Catholics, the Eucharist is of such importance to us.



<http://www.lancaster-diocese-education.org.uk/2018/10/29/bishop-paul-swarbrick-introduces-the-year-of-the-eucharist/>

Throughout the year, children will be involved in a variety of activities regarding the Year of the Eucharist so please look out for updates.

Year Group Masses and Class Prayer & Liturgies

These are now well under way and the children have been excellent in responding to the mass and understanding the Gospel of the day. We have no more year group masses for the Autumn Term, due to nativities and other services taking place during this busy season of Advent. They will recommence in the Spring Term; dates to follow.