

*St. Herbert's RC Primary School*

*Autumn Term*

*10<sup>th</sup> December 2023*



Dear Children, Parents and Guardians,

We have had a lovely half-term so far, including preparations for Christmas in our season of Advent. Just a few notices to take us up to Christmas.

### **RE Inspection**

Thank you for all your lovely comments and support last week; our community came together in solidarity to celebrate our school. We will send you the report as soon as it is released.

### **Staffing**

Mrs Lovell, our KS1 phase leader, will be going on a secondment as a Deputy Headteacher to support another school after Christmas. The secondment will be from January through to July 2024, and therefore Mrs Whale (Chadderton) will be going into Class 3, with Mrs Kendrick joining her after her maternity leave finishes at Easter. Mr Cleary will continue to work with Class 6, in a full-time capacity, for the remainder of the academic year. We send Mrs Lovell our best wishes, and know she will do a fantastic job of supporting one of our schools in their time of need.

After 31 years of serving our school, Mrs Kay (who works in KS1 and EY), will be retiring (very early retirement!!!). We thank her for all her years' service and send her and her family our love and best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

### **Attendance**

The local authorities are focusing on schools' attendance, following a dip nationally since the pandemic. The national attendance figure has not risen back to pre-pandemic standards as expected, and therefore there is now a large focus to get pupils back into schools consistently. The LA school attendance officer is visiting all schools and visited our school last week; we will be focusing on any pupils whose attendance falls below 90% / who are persistently late.

Any absence will be unauthorised if current attendance is under 90%, unless families can provide medical evidence/cards/texts. If your child has an appointment in school time, we will need to see a medical appointment card or text at the office.

Whilst our school attendance is very good, the school attendance officer is working with us and our families to improve in a couple of areas, in particular punctuality. Lateness can have a significant impact on pupil's attainment, as often they are missing key learning at this time, and therefore we will be monitoring punctuality carefully.

We wish to work with families, and thank you for your support in this area.

### **Edward St Car Park**

Please can I clarify that Edward St car park is not owned by school. It is a car park allocated for local residents and businesses. Can I ask that families park in the Parish Centre car park or the cemetery at all times, so that we can support our local community.

### **Diary Dates:**

#### ***Shows:***

12th December - **EY Nativity** 09:30am – School Hall

13th December **KS1 Nativity** 1:30pm **OR** 14th December 9:30am – School Hall

For both of the above nativities, we will be asking for donations, as suggested by previous audiences. Our school ambassadors will have buckets on the door, to raise much needed school funds! They have asked me to give you as much notice as possible, so that you can bring some cash on the day!! (I've trained them well :) )

18th December - **LKS2** Carol service 6:30pm

This service will be held on 18th December at 6:30pm **in Church**. There are no tickets issued for this service, but we please ask that only LKS2 families attend; the church does not have a large capacity, which is why we split LKS2 and UKS2 events.

***Other events:***

19th December - Christmas Pupil Party Afternoon

Children will hold their parties in their classrooms; we are hoping Fr Christmas will appear in person again, like last year! As per last year, on Christmas Party Day the catering team are going to provide a special lunch for those on dinners, and the children on packed lunches can bring in special items as a one-off treat eg: chocolate, cakes, sweets etc. Please ensure children's outfits are appropriate, in particular footwear for playing outside.

20<sup>th</sup> December - School Christmas Mass at Church 10:00am

21<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Finish for Christmas Holidays 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1:30pm.

**Christmas Raffle** – tickets have gone on sale £1 a strip, and the draw will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, after assembly.

School closes for the Christmas Holidays on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 1:30pm** and re-opens **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

A **HUGE** thank you for all your donations over the past few weeks; we have supported many families, who have been very grateful for all that they have received - your generosity has been greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Kind Regards

Mrs S J Milligan

Twitter: @mrs\_smilligan