

We were privileged again this year, to have the Monkwearmouth Salvation Army Band at school to make our Carol singing extra special.
Thanks to everyone who joined us this afternoon and who contributed to the collection which will be put to very good use with those in need this Christmas.

Please pray for our school family over Christmas and in particular for those who are ill or facing any kind of difficulty.

We wish Mr McGeeney every success and happiness in his new post.
He will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your very generous gifts, cards, good wishes and support.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mrs M McCollom
Headteacher



Wishing you a Joyful Christmas

And a Peaceful New Year

Advent Liturgy: In church on Monday evening, we focused on the themes of Love, Peace, Hope & Joy, linking to the symbols of the Advent Wreath. Thank you to KS2 children and staff for the liturgy which helps us all to think about the real meaning of Christmas. Special thanks to those children who stepped in at the last minute to read and/or act for children who didn't make it to church.

There are many opportunities for you as parents/carers to take the children to church over Christmas; helping them to make sense of all their Advent preparation/ worship and R.E in school.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday 24TH DECEMBER

6.00 p.m. MASS (carols from 5.30 p.m.)

12.00 MIDNIGHT MASS (carols from 11.30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY - Sunday 25TH DECEMBER

10.00 a.m. MASS

First Reconciliation

We continue to pray for the children of the parish who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on 6th December.

'A Little Nativity' Thank you to the children and staff for presenting the Christmas Story so beautifully. I am delighted that so many parents/carers and friends of the school were able to share in a fantastic retelling of the Christmas story. We had a very positive response to the sale of Photographs and DVDs.

Mass in School. Parents and parishioners have joined us for Mass in School during Advent and this week our Mini Vinnies were joined by groups from the other Catholic Primary Schools in Darlington as well as the Adults from our Parish SVP. This gave the children a chance to pray together and to share their ideas for fundraising and helping those in need in our local community.

School Choir -Our choir have been using their talents to bring the Christmas story to mind for many people in Darlington. They have sung at the Darlington Christmas Markets and for St. Teresa's Hospice. They have also sung for residents at Greencroft sheltered housing. I have received many compliments about their beautiful singing in church for our Advent Liturgy.

The collection at the end of the Advent Liturgy raised £157.22. We will share this between HCPT 195 and the Kumi Project in Uganda.

Wear Purple Day This raised £131.34 We were delighted that some of the Y6 pupils volunteered to do some additional fundraising. Sales of Slime and stress balls raised a further £124.65 giving us a grand total of £255.99 for the Youth Ministry Trust.

Mini-Vinnies Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and helped us to raise money to support the work of this group.

Ukulele, Cello & Violin concert Parents/Carers were treated to a special performance by Y4 and Y5 pupils as well as our 'cellists and violinists. This was an occasion for them to showcase their talents and display their musical progress so far. We are lucky to have very dedicated teachers who come to school to work with the children and give time to organise these events.

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3rd January: Staff Inset Day

Wednesday 4th JANUARY: Pupils return to school.

After school clubs next half term: Letters will go out at the start of next term. Clubs include:

Club	Day	Year Group	Start Date	Finish Date
Dance	Monday	KS2	9.01.17	TBC
Science	Thursday	Y5 & Y6	12.01.17	09.02.17
Multi Sports	Thursday	KS1	05/01/17	16.02.17
Keep Fit	Friday	KS2	13.01.17	10.02.17

Christmas Card Competition.

Congratulations to Lili Y6 and Arabella Y1 whose designs have been used for our official school Christmas Card.

Christmas Hamper Raffle. Thank you for all your donations and for supporting us on the day. The raffle was a huge success and we raised £270.60. Thank you.

Particular thanks to St. Augustine's PFA for organising social and fundraising events including mulled wine and mince pies after our Advent Liturgy.

Angel Ornaments - Thank you to Mrs Holborn for making the beautiful angel ornaments for us to sell after the Advent Liturgy. This has raised a further £22.00 for school funds.

