



Statements to Live By:

Week Beg 21.11.16: Simple things can make us happy

Week Beg 28.11.16: First week of Advent.

Christ the King Mass (Youth Sunday) 9.15a.m. 20th November

School, along with the youth groups from the parish will be helping to celebrate our Sunday Eucharist

The children are to wear their school uniform and will sit either with their class teacher or their group leaders.

Uniformed groups (Brownies etc) will have received information from their group leaders about where to meet etc. I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday morning.

Youth Friday In preparation for Sunday's Mass we had a special liturgy today, led by members of the Prayer Group. The theme this year was 'Love Undeserved' and our liturgy included a special video message from Bishop Seamus to all the young people of the diocese, thanking them for their contribution to the life of our schools and parishes. The Bishop also asks us to support the work of the Youth Mission Team who visit and work with schools and host retreats and special celebrations for young people.

YMT Collection

To support the Diocesan Youth Mission Team, we will be having a wear purple day during Advent and we will have a small collecting box in each classroom and are asking the children to bring in coins to fill their year group's box.

Open Day. There were 3 opportunities across the day for prospective parents to visit the school. Thank you to the Y5 and Y6 pupils who showed visitors around and provided such a positive image. They received many compliments for their polite and informative tours of the school!

Information Sessions for Parents

Thank you to those parents who attended one of the information sessions to hear about reading in school, e-safety and the Rights Respecting School Award. Some of the information from the sessions will be posted on the school website along with our updated information on the topics being covered this year.

Supporting children's reading

Special thanks to those parents who have joined our group of volunteers, reading with children in school.

Story Sacks

I am also looking for a group of volunteers to help to create some Story Sacks for use in school.

A few years ago we had a group of parents who met to discuss ideas, decide on contents, create games/buy games to go with the focus book and to actually make the sack itself. Please contact the school office if you would like to help set up a new group or would like to know more.

DfE Visit

The Director for Accountability, Curriculum and Qualifications was very impressed with the school's approach and with the lessons she observed during her short visit to school this week.

Children in Need Thank you so much for your very generous donations. Everyone enjoyed the no-uniform day and another opportunity to eat extra cake. We have raised a Bear-illiant £229.59 so far!

Anti Bullying Week All classes have been involved in activities to make children aware of different types of bullying, how to spot it & how to prevent it, a booklet for parents/carers is being sent home with children today.

On Wednesday KS2 pupils took part in an E-Safety Theatre Workshop delivered by SPLATS Theatre Group. The pupils worked hard all day learning lines and making props before giving a final performance in front of

their parents/carers. Unfortunately we have had some problems with our text service and parents did not receive their invitation to the performance at the end of the day. Lots of photos were taken and these are being added to the school website. The actual performance took a little longer than expected so I apologise for the late finish time on Wednesday.

Primary Athletics Cluster Competition Y5 took part in this competition on Friday at the Dolphin Centre. They showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship in all the events they competed in. Well done!

Christmas Hamper Raffle Every pupil has been given 2 books of raffle tickets today to sell to friends and family. If you would like more tickets to sell, then please see the school office. We also need donations of items for the luxury hampers (biscuits, bottles, pampering products etc). Please bring any donations to the school office.

The raffle will be drawn on Monday 12th December after the Advent Liturgy (starting at 5.30pm in Church) when we adjourn to the Parish Centre for mulled wine and mince pies!

Bikeability Well done to our Y5 pupils who have passed level 1 & 2 Bikeability. They received their badges and certificates today.

Mini-Police We are now full members of Durham Constabulary's Mini-Police Programme following our joint launch with Heighington Primary School last week. Our cadets, from Y5 & Y6, had a very enjoyable afternoon meeting the Police Interceptors, K-9 units, Traffic Officers and Armed Response. Our next official engagement is assisting with the Lantern Parade in Durham City on 3rd December.

Reminders

Safe Cycling If your child cycles to school, please ensure that he/she has the correct safety equipment, including safety helmet, bike lights and bright/reflective clothing.

Dinner Money etc Please ensure that all money sent into school is in an envelope, CLEARLY marked with your child's name and stating what the payment is for.

Being on Time

There are an increasing number of children coming in late each day after the start of school at 8.55am. This is disruptive not only for them but also for the rest of the school as they have to be signed in at the office and make their way through school to their classroom. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is on time and arrives at school before the gates close at 8.55am.

Dates and Events

Sun 20 th Nov	Christ the King Mass 9.15 am in Church.
Tues 22 nd Nov	Y1 & Y2 Visit to Preston Park
Thurs 24 th Nov	Choir Singing at the Christmas Market in Town 2.30pm-3.00pm
Wed 30 th Nov	St Andrews House celebration - Children in St Andrews House ONLY may wear own clothes including something BLUE .
Fri 2nd December	Choir carol singing at Queen Street Shopping Centre 10.30am - 11.30am to help raise funds for St Teresa's Hospice
Mon 5 th Dec	First Reconciliation Practice at 3.15pm in church.
Tues 6 th Dec	First Reconciliation Service 6.30pm in church.
Wed 7 th Dec	Choir Carol singing at Greencroft Court Sheltered Housing
Thursday 8 th & Friday 9 th Dec	Reception & KS1 Nativity 10.00am
Mon 12 th Dec	Whole School Advent Liturgy in Church 5.30pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Parish Centre
Wed 14 th Dec	Christmas Lunch. Visit from Santa
Fri 16 th Dec	Carols around the tree. 1.30 p.m. Parents and Carers welcome. SCHOOL CLOSES at 2.30pm

We hope to have some class Masses in school during Advent, dates and times to follow.

As the events above show, it is almost that time of year again.

Thank you for your continuing help and support for all our work and events in school.

Mrs M McCollom

Headteacher.