



St Augustine's RC Primary School NEWSLETTER: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. Autumn 7  
Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Christ the King Mass**

Thank you to all the children and parents who attended the 9.15 Mass on Youth Sunday. It was lovely to see the children in their uniforms representing various groups including school. We also had a special liturgy in school on Youth Friday - led by our prayer group. This included a message to all the young people of the diocese from Bishop Seamus.

As we begin a new church year, our focus is on Advent and preparing to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. We had a special liturgy in school on Monday when we lit the first candle on the beautiful Advent Wreath, prepared for us by Mrs Tully (a former member of staff)

**Posadas - Travelling Crib** Once again children from each year group will have an opportunity to take home the travelling cribs. I hope that families will enjoy using them for a short prayer time together

### **Mass in School during Advent**

Father Seamus celebrated Mass in school yesterday for Y5 and Y6. We were delighted to be joined by parents and parishioners.

Unfortunately it is not possible for Mass in school on Tuesday (6<sup>th</sup> December) to go ahead.

**All parents/carers/parishioners are welcome to join us on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December for a special Mass for our Mini Vinnies group.** We are hoping that some pupils from other schools may be able to join us along with members of the parish SVP Group.

**First Reconciliation** Please remember in your prayers all the children from our school and parish who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please note the change of time. The service will be at 5.45pm in Church.**

Just a reminder for the families involved, a practice for First Reconciliation will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm in church. School staff will take the children to church, please collect your child from church at 4.30pm. Please ensure that any care providers (after school clubs/Grandparents etc) are aware of the changes to the pick-up time and location.

**Carol Singing** The choir sang beautifully at the Darlington Markets event last week. Today they have been carol singing in Queen Street Arcade, to raise money for St. Teresa's Hospice.

**Children in Need** The final amount raised by school for this year's appeal is £240.99. Thank you!

**Wear Purple Day Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** We will be holding a special 'Purple Day' to raise funds for the Youth Ministry Team and its very important work with young people across the diocese. For a small donation, children can wear something purple. Some Y6 pupils are also hoping to sell some home-made products (slime and stress balls) to support our fund-raising.

**Christmas Hamper Raffle** Tickets have been sent out and the raffle will be drawn on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December after the Advent Liturgy. We would be grateful for helpers to make up the hampers on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Raffle tickets are still available to buy from the school office. We are still in need of luxury items to be included in the hampers. Please send your donations into school no later than the morning of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you!

**Mini-Police** Good luck to all our Mini-Police cadets who will be performing their first official duty at the Lantern Parade, Durham City, tomorrow. All the cadets will be in their full uniform and will assist the Police in ensuring that this event runs smoothly, allowing everyone to enjoy this special occasion.

**Mini-Vinnies** Our Mini-Vinnies group will be selling raffle tickets in school from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The first prize is a lovely knitted Nativity Set. Tickets are 50p per strip and the raffle will be drawn 16.12.16 at Carols around the Tree. All proceeds go towards supporting the work of the SVP and their chosen charities. If you would like tickets then please send the money into school in a clearly labelled envelope. Thank you.

#### **After School Clubs**

Y1 & Y2 Ballroom Dancing	Last session Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
Y5 & Y6 Basketball Club	Last session was Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Science Club	Last session was Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> November (Group 2 start Thurs 12.1.17)
Board Games Club	Last session Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
Dance Club	Last session was Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December (will restart 5.1.17)

#### **LAST DAY OF TERM**

School will finish at **2.30 p.m.** on **FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, after Carols around the Tree.** Please be advised that there may not be a crossing patrol person on duty at that time. Paradise Afterschool Club will collect from school at 2.30pm, please ensure that other childcare providers are informed about the change of time.

**ABSENCE REMINDER** All absences **must** be reported to the school office on the morning of the day they occur.

**Parking** Parents are reminded that they **must not** park in the residents' bays or back lanes when dropping off or collecting children. The School car park is for staff only or those with special permission.

#### **Dates and Events**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	First Reconciliation Practice 3.15pm <b>in Church.</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.45 pm. Please ensure the children involved are in church in time for the start of the liturgy. They will sit at the front of the church with the Catechists.
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Choir carol singing at Greencroft Court
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Nativity 10am in the school hall
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Advent Liturgy in Church 5.30pm (Led by KS2) followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Centre. Please walk to church if possible to reduce congestion in the Parish Centre car park.
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wear Purple Day
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Arts & Crafts for parents, carers & grandparents of pupils in Reception & KS1
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch (please see attached menu). Visit from Santa
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass for Mini Vinnies 9.30am in School. All Welcome
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ukulele, violin & cello concert for Y4, Y5 & Y6 parents 2.30pm.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carols around the tree. Mini-Vinnies raffle draw. Parents and Carers welcome. <b>School finishes at 2.30pm</b>
<b>WED 4<sup>TH</sup> JAN</b>	<b>SCHOOL RE OPENS FOR PUPILS</b>

#### **Staff Changes**

Mr McGeeney will be leaving us at the end of this term. He will be taking up a Deputy Headteacher post in January.

Through his work as a senior leader, classroom teacher and SENDCo he has contributed a huge amount to all aspects of school life. He will be missed by the children and his colleagues. I am sure that parents and carers would want to join me in thanking him for the all his hard work both in and beyond the classroom during his time at St. Augustine's, and wishing him every success in the future.

Thank you for your continued support and help at what I know is a very busy time at home as well as at school. Hard to believe that the next newsletter is for the end of term!

*Mrs M McCollom*  
Headteacher