



16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Church services:  
Advent  
& Christmas**

**Advent  
Penitential  
Service:**  
Tues 20th  
December, 7pm

**Christmas Eve**

- **Masses at 3 & 6pm** are prepared for families with children in KS1 and KS2 (who are invited to come in Nativity costume - *simple designs are available on our parish blog*)
- **9pm Mass** in the Night

**Christmas Day:** Mass at 9am and 11am

**Mon 26th Dec: St Stephen** - 10am

**Tues 27th Dec: St John** - 10am

**Weds 28th December:**  
**Holy Innocents** - 10am

**Fri 30th December:**  
**Holy Family** - 10am

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> December:**  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God** - 6pm

**Sun 1st January:**  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God** - 9 & 11am

### End of term

This afternoon we met as a school to celebrate Mass and to give thanks for a successful Autumn Term. We prayed for a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Thank you for your support during this term; it has been wonderful to see pupils settle into their new year groups and make academic, social and spiritual progress.

Thank you for the many Christmas messages, cards and gifts for staff - this is never expected but always appreciated.

The image to the left shows all Masses and services at St Nicholas Catholic Church over the Christmas season. Whether you worship here or elsewhere, please keep the Christ Child in your homes this season - His light will guide our way.

The Christmas season can be difficult for many and we hold in our prayers anyone who is ill, alone or grieving at this time.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a St Nicholas pupil over the break, please email [dsl@stnicholassutton.org.uk](mailto:dsl@stnicholassutton.org.uk) as this will be monitored by a DSL. **If you have a safeguarding emergency then call CASS on 0121 303 1888 or 0121 675 4806 (out of hours) or dial 999.**

### Charitable Fundraising - thank you!

Living out the Catholic Life of our school is our mission on a daily basis. During this Advent season we have supported several different charities and your support has been incredible.

At the time of writing this newsletter, our 'Just Giving' account for John Taylor Hospice was up to £781 which far surpasses our £500 target. Thank you! The link is still live if you would like to donate [Claire Noble-Barton is fundraising for John Taylor Hospice \(justgiving.com\)](#)

Kevin from Bethany Food bank collected the donations from the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' this afternoon and was visibly moved by your generosity. They are feeding and helping more individuals and families than ever before with higher running costs due to the cost of fuel. Your support means the world to them and really helps people who have fallen on hard times.

After the Nativity plays this week, the retiring collection raised £370.63 which will be donated to CAFOD to help their work overseas.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40.*

### Wednesday Word - please follow this link to enjoy this weekend's Gospel as a family

[Click here for the Wednesday Word](#)

### Mini Vinnies Newsletter

Our KS2 'Mini Vinnies' group is now in full swing. Please find attached their first newsletter. Thank you to the pupils and Miss Gamlen for their hard work.

### Gospel Virtues

This half term we are focused on being 'FAITH-FILLED' and 'HOPEFUL'. The following children have been seen living out these virtues and have been awarded a wristband this week: Elspeth (Y1), Kobim (Rec) & Jonathan (Y2).

### Closing date for applications to Reception 2023

The closing date for applications for a child to start in Reception class in September 2023 is **15th January 2023**. All applications must be submitted to [School age - when can your child start school? | Apply for reception class or primary school | Birmingham City Council](#) and supplementary information forms returned to school together with the relevant paperwork.

### Winter Water Safety

The news about the young children who died as a result of falling into a frozen lake in Solihull has been horrific to watch. Please pray for the repose of the souls of the four boys and also for their heartbroken families.

The weather forecast is still very low for a period of time and so it is important to educate children on the dangers they can face - this has been discussed with the whole school in an assembly this week. This website has been produced by West Midlands Fire Service, [Winter Water Safety WMFS](#), please follow this link for more information and advice.

### Christmas EXTREME reading challenge

What are your plans for Christmas? Can you find an EXTREME place to read your book over the holidays? We would love to see some pictures of your children reading in weird, wonderful and exciting places this Christmas - safely of course! Please email your photos to [enquiry@stnicholassutton.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@stnicholassutton.co.uk) or tweet us @StNicholasCP with #extremereading and we will share these on our return to school. Happy reading!

### INSET Days & Term Dates

A reminder that Tuesday 3rd January is an INSET day and schools will be closed to pupils.

Friday 17th February will also be an INSET day.

A reminder of this academic year's term dates is below:

#### **St. John Paul II Multi-Academy Agreed Term Dates 2022-2023**

##### Autumn 1

Monday 5th September 2022 - Friday 21st October 2022

##### Autumn 2

Monday 31st October 2022 - Friday 16th December 2022

##### Spring 1

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 - Friday 17th February 2023

##### Spring 2

Monday 27th February 2023 - Thursday 6th April 2023

##### Summer 1

Monday 24th April 2023 - Friday 26th May 2023

##### Summer 2

Monday 5th June 2023 - Tuesday 25th July 2023

### Phonics - home video links

Reception - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KSUWVtg7/GYmVvvvE>

Green - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EMFAhJki/w8p2U2XG>

Purple- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YD6fx0bV/TVscaj36>

Pink- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7IVhWfUz/PdxstJuI>

Orange - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3TGkhF03/xfQgKBRV>

Yellow - <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EMFAhJki/w8p2U2XG>

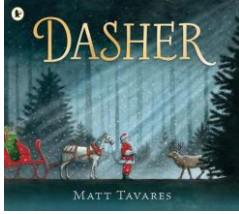
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zih57ZIH/Fmm3pURO>

and

## Christmas Book Recommendations

For KS1, Miss Guest recommends...

*Dasher* by Matt Tavares

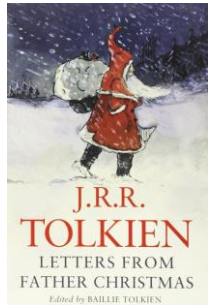


Dasher is a little doe with a wish in her heart. She spends her days with her family under the hot sun in a travelling circus, but she longs for a different life - one where there is snow beneath her hooves and the North Star above her head. One day, when the opportunity arises, Dasher seizes her destiny and takes off in pursuit of the life she wants to live. It's not long before she meets a nice man in a red suit with a horse-drawn sleigh, a man named Santa. And soon, with the help of a powerful Christmas wish, nothing will be the same...

[Click to purchase](#)

For KS2, Miss Smith recommends...

*Letters from Father Christmas* by JRR Tolkien

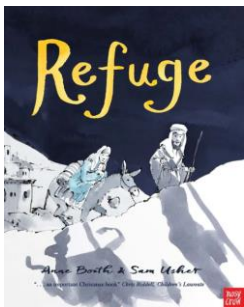


'My dear children, I am more shaky than usual this year. The North Polar Bear's fault. It was the biggest bang in the world, and the most monstrous firework there has ever been. It turned the North Pole black! J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit*, wrote a letter from Father Christmas to his children every year, and here the envelopes and notes are reproduced and collected to reveal how the reindeer scattered presents all over the place, a polar bear fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining-room and a troublesome horde of goblins caused trouble for the elves! Enchanting for grown-ups and children alike.

[Click to purchase](#)

A special book recommendation from Mrs Noble-Barton, suitable for all ages of children to share during Advent & Christmas...

*Refuge* by Anne Booth and Sam Usher



A timely and timeless retelling of the Christmas story, inspired by refugee children everywhere. This powerful and evocative picture book, which tells the Christmas story and what follows the fleeing of Jesus, Mary and Joseph from Herod's soldiers to Egypt has timeless crossover appeal and a poignant message that couldn't be more relevant.

[Click to purchase](#)

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3/1/23	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4/1/23	First day of Spring Term for pupils
Tuesday 10/1/23	'Young Voices' concert at Resorts World Arena 7pm
Friday 17/2/23	INSET Day - school closed to pupils

God bless,

Mr Porter  
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton  
Head of School



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Earlsbury Gardens, Birmingham, B20 3AE

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M Emery

Company House Registered No. 08706247

