



NEWSLETTER

**“And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!” Charles Dickens
Advent Term 2**

Value of the Term-HOPE

*’Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

*The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,*

*When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.*

*The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,*

*With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;*

*"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"*

*As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.*

*And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.*

*He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.*

*His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;*

*The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;*

*He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!*





Message from Bishop Patrick – Encounter How can we Encounter Christ?

In this time of preparation perhaps we can reflect on how we can continue to Encounter Christ more deeply through the simple act of going to church. Fr Jim and Deacon Dennis would welcome more families to attend Mass over this special time but also every week throughout the year. The church is a special place in which we can reflect and open our hearts to God.



Christmas Recommended Reads

The Snowman - Michael Morpurgo & Robin Shaw, based on the original story by Raymond Briggs.

This is a new novelised adaptation of Raymond Briggs' classic story (also available here), bringing all the magic of the original tale into a narrative form.

A boy named James is so excited when snow arrives on his farm that he rushes outside to build the snowman he has been longing to create. Wonderfully, the snowman comes to life and gives James a magical adventure that he will never forget. This cherished story that never loses its magical appeal, is bound to be a favourite for many to curl up with this Christmas.

A Boy Called Christmas - Matt Haig & Chris Mould

This hilarious novel is a festive favourite with KS2. *A Boy Called Christmas* tells the story of Nikolas, whose father is a woodcutter who has disappeared on a dangerous expedition to find Santa's elves. Nikolas sets out to the Far North to rescue his father, encountering danger, new friends and a good deal of Christmas magic along the way. Eventually Nikolas he finds that he has his very own part to play in bringing festive joy to many others.

Dream Snow - Eric Carle

From the creator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, this is the story of a Santa-like farmer who dreams of snow on Christmas Eve. When he wakes, he discovers real snow has fallen, just in time for him to bring special gifts to his animals. This is a multi-sensory edition, complete with surprise flaps, textures and Eric Carle's iconic collage-style illustrations that would make an excellent stimulus for Christmas creative projects. We particularly recommend *Dream Snow* for EYFS and Year 1.

The Christmasaurus - Tom Fletcher

These debut children's novel from Tom Fletcher is already a bestseller and will be a much requested Christmas present this year. Follow the adventures of William Trundle as he encounters elves, reindeer, snow, Santa Claus and a rather festive dinosaur. Fast-paced and full of humour, *The Christmasaurus* is a terrific story to read aloud to KS2.

Trips

When your child has a school trip and the letter states to provide a packed lunch please remember this can be provided by Farm Kitchen if you usually order hot meals. When parents go into the weekly menu selection page you will see, "If you have ordered a hot school lunch and your child's school organise a school trip, as long as we are notified by the normal order deadline (3pm on the preceding Tuesday), we will ensure a healthy packed lunch is provided for your child. If you would rather receive a full refund, please email enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com and we will arrange for the cancellation of the meal. Please ensure at least 24 hour's notice (1pm the preceding day) is given for any meal cancellations". If you have any further queries regarding this please speak to myself, Mrs Bach or Mrs Wide in the School Office.

Dates For Your Diary

7th January - Start of Term
9th January - Year 1 Spalding Library
9th January - First School Mass of New Year
11th January - Year 4 Swimming begins

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Priorities for School Improvement for 2018-2019:

Key Improvement 1: Catholic Life of the School -SMSC To develop a stronger pupil driven spiritual ethos led by the Chaplaincy Team that enables all stakeholders to encounter Christ to develop as leaders in their own faith journeys and missionary discipleship. *Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.*

Key Improvement 2: Effectiveness of leadership and management To embed external outward facing school leadership within the St. Therese of Lisieux CMAT, based on inquiry research and a pro-active, self-improving culture, with all leaders exhibiting high expectations for every pupil and member of staff. *Article 3: All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.*

Key Improvement 3: Quality of teaching, learning and assessment To improve the quality of teaching and learning to ensure 90% is consistently challenging and inspirational, achieving at least 75% at age related expectations and 20%+ Greater Depth for core areas of Religious Education, Maths and English. *Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people*

Key Improvement 4: Personal development, behaviour and welfare To ensure our pupils are ready for a life beyond school and develop resilience and motivation for applying core skills of reading, writing and arithmetic across the curriculum. *Article 6: All children have the right to life and develop healthily. Article 28: All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.*

Key Improvement 5: Outcomes for children and learners To raise standards in Maths particularly how reasoning and problem solving is embedded across the curriculum, ensuring pupils have the opportunity to achieve Mastery of core mathematical skills and apply in a range of contexts. *Article 13: You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, and writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.*

Christmas Riddles

I come with many colors, so beautiful and bright, I turn so many houses into a beautiful sight. What am I?

I get chopped, decorated and on one end you'll see wings on top. What am I?

If a lion had a Christmas music album, what would it be called?

What did the Christmas tree say to the Christmas stocking?

Why didn't the turkey want to eat on Christmas?



Attendance

Remember as we start the school year our school target is 97% and anything below **90% is Persistent Absence and can result in a fixed penalty notice**. We are also required to report any families to the local authority whose children have had 10 consecutive days absent from school or any that take unauthorised/absence or holiday. This week's winners are Year 1.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
95.33%	96.9%	95.67%	93.1%	96.33%	92%	96%

We have noticed an increase in applications for Holiday's during Term Time may I remind all parents that no holidays may be taken during term time and will be recorded as unauthorised attendance and may result in a fine.

Save The Children Christmas Fundraiser 2018

**Thank you to all that supported this worthy cause we raised
£189.10 Well Done!**



Twelve Days of Christmas

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

F	R	E	N	C	H	R	E	N	S	W	A	N	S	V
E	S	G	F	M	G	S	R	E	M	M	U	R	D	G
S	D	O	A	H	D	M	G	F	M	G	C	Q	M	J
E	R	L	B	N	I	D	I	O	P	I	P	E	R	S
E	O	D	F	R	I	P	N	Y	I	M	X	C	B	G
G	L	E	L	R	I	K	D	W	A	D	N	H	U	N
N	D	N	T	N	M	A	I	D	S	L	N	R	E	I
G	P	R	G	M	I	L	K	I	N	G	D	I	H	M
Y	A	I	F	U	S	T	W	O	M	L	O	S	M	M
P	E	N	T	Q	G	N	I	P	A	E	L	T	E	U
J	V	G	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	D	H	N	R
I	L	S	D	R	I	B	G	N	I	L	L	A	C	D
U	E	T	U	R	T	L	E	D	O	V	E	S	Y	P
U	N	B	N	O	O	S	Q	Y	T	X	P	C	F	S
N	T	V	O	M	U	Y	E	E	R	T	R	A	E	P

11
CALLING BIRDS
CHRISTMAS
DAYS
DRUMMERS
DRUMMING
FRENCH HENS
GEESE

8
GOLDEN RINGS
LAPING
LEAPING
LORDS
MAIDS
MILKING
PARTRIDGE

5
PEAR TREE
PIPERS
PIPING
SHIPS
SWIMMING
TURTLE Doves
TWELVE

7
9



JRSO Message

<http://think-direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/parents/7-to-11s/Be-bright-be-seen/>



E-Safety - Do you know what your child is doing online? Ask.

Visit our E-Safety page on the school website.

<http://www.st-bernabets.lincs.sch.uk/e-safety.asp>

A very worthwhile tool for parents for understanding modern day apps and games and a great way to start a dialogue with children about their understanding of how to stay safe. To find out more follow the link

<https://net-aware.org.uk> Or download the Net Aware app for android and iOS.



Make sure your child knows what to do if they come across cyberbullying.

Encourage them to be an upstander not a bystander with the Stop, Speak, Support code.

December 2018 E-Safety

<https://www.safeninternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

Merry Techy Christmas! Use the link above to explore safe use of devices through the Parent Guide to Technology!

House Points Advent 2 Final Results St. Bernadette's – Well Done!

Take Time to Pray as a family this week:

An Advent Prayer
 God of light and hope,
 look upon us in love,
 and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus
 that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.
 Protect us during this week
 and keep us watchful in prayer
 as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
 who is the light of the world,
 and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

www.archtoronto.org

Mrs Withers (Acting Headteacher)