



No: 13



St. William's Weekly News Round 8 December 2023

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## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE BOARD

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent

The second purple candle represents **faith** and is called 'Bethlehem's Candle'. Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. John the Baptist calls all sinners forward for baptism and the start of a new life, 'A shout goes up in the desert: 'as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. But along with the call to repent and begin again was another message, the message of advent: someone else is coming who is much greater than John. There is a key word in the gospel reading that is strongly associated with John the Baptist, it is '**repent**'. The 'pent' part of the word means 'think' (in English we use pensive to mean thoughtful and 'repent' means 'to re-think', to think again. John the Baptist called people to think again. Think again about how you are living your lives and to think about 'the One who is to come', the Messiah, who will baptise you with the Spirit of God. So, as we journey through the season of Advent, let us reflect on John the Baptist as he points us to Christ and re-think our faith. Let us take the opportunity to turn back to God with renewed love and determination to follow the teachings of Jesus. Advent is a time for reflection and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an opportunity for us to receive God's love and forgiveness. **We pray: O, my God because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and with the help of your grace, I will not sin again. Amen.** During Advent we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the first coming of Jesus into our world, by making an extra effort to live out those core virtues of our school: Love, Kindness & Respect and help those most in need.

### St. William's Church News:

#### Christmas Mass Schedule

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Therefore, there will be the usual weekend (Sunday Masses)

**Saturday 23 December 6pm** (Advent IV) Vigil – St William's.

**Sunday 24 December 9.30am** (Advent IV) – St Matthew's.

**Sunday 24 December 11am** (Advent IV) – St William's.

Fr Jones intends to celebrate **one** other mass on the 24 December at St William's Church as the First Mass of the Nativity between 8.00pm – 11.30pm at the time suggested by parishioners and yet to be confirmed. The reading will be those of the Midnight Mass.

### Christmas Day – Monday 25 December 2023

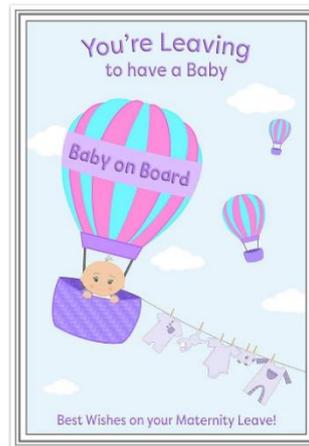
**9.30am St Matthew's**

**11.00am St William's**

There is a meeting for the children and parents who have completed the **Sacrament of Reconciliation Programme today** at St. William's Church at 4:30pm to practice what they need to do on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December from 10am, when they will receive this sacrament for the first time. Attendance of both children and parent(s) is essential. Thank you!

Fr Jones will be in the school chapel on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 11am to offer Sacrament of Reconciliation to those pupils who are eligible for this holy sacrament.

### Good Luck, Mrs Smith!



I wish to offer my congratulations to Mrs Smith and wish her all the very best as she begins her Maternity Leave next week, finishing Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. This is an exciting time for Mrs Smith, and I know that many of you will want to also say good luck to her. Mrs. Balsham will cover Ash Class for this leave and

she has already established positive relationships with the children and staff in school as well as working closely with Mrs Smith to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils.

### Our Amazing Learning Environments

Once again, the pupils' work and the adults' commitment to show case this, to create the best possible effect, is truly outstanding! I am very proud of the effort and high standard of work, about Advent,

displayed in our hall. Well done to all our pupils and staff for their excellent efforts!

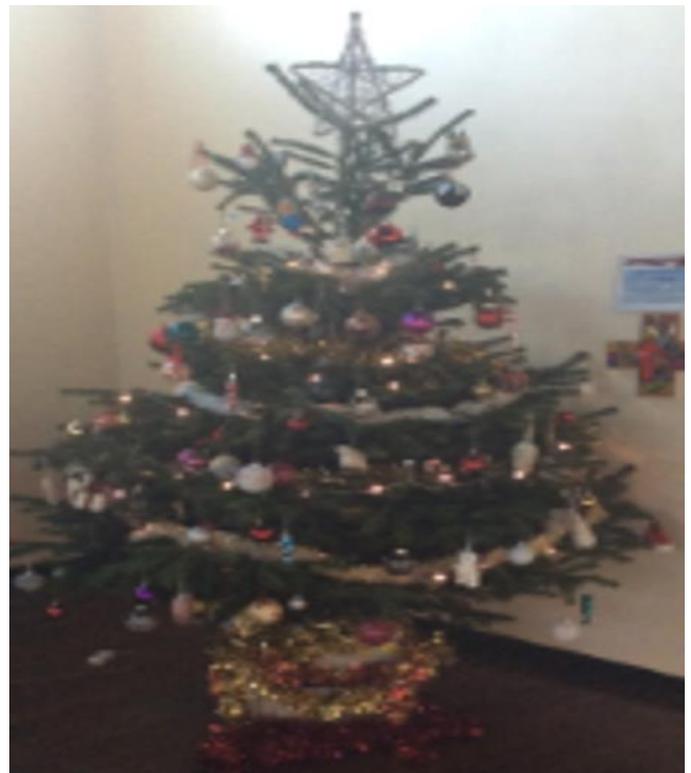


**Blessing of the Advent Wreaths Liturgy**

Thank you to Fr. Jones and our Faith Leaders for leading us in a Liturgy of Blessing of the Advent Wreaths last Friday.



On Monday the children decorated the school's tree with baubles. This is certainly helping us focus on Christ, the Light of the World, guiding us and showing us His way. They did an amazing job!



**BCWCAT Intellectual Day**

As part of the Trust intellectual day, the year 4 children in Lime Class completed multiplication tables check activity on iPads. The children aimed high for top marks!



This is our Year 4 times table champion for the Trust Intellectual day. A massive well done to you Pawel!



Beech Class practising their spellings for intellectual day.



Year 6 children completed their problem-solving activity as part of the Intellectual Wellbeing Day.



### Holly Class Mass

A wonderful class Mass at church on Tuesday 5 December, with Holly class, the readers were excellent, and Cassidy served beautifully with Fr. Jones.



### Oak Class – Parents Meeting

Parents joined Mrs Teal & Miss Parker on Tuesday morning to learn about the Year 2 curriculum and how

Optional SATs will be implemented next May. Thank you, parents, for your continued support.



### Lime Class

Lime Class did well at playing the first and second lines of the Jingle Bells tune on their flutes.



Lime Class explored how different switches work in circuits in science lesson on Monday.



### Weather



Please send your child/children prepared for our ever-changing weather conditions. Children must have a coat, preferably with a hood, every day, and suitable outdoor shoes. All children must bring a water bottle to school, this will help keep them hydrated during the day.  Please clearly mark your child(ren)'s uniform/P.E. kit with their name, this will help to eliminate lost items.

### Keeping Children Safe

**Attendance and Punctuality sits in Safeguarding.**

The Local Authority Attendance Officer, Molly Searle, met with me (Miss Parker) Tuesday, 30/11/23. She will be working closely with our school family to ensure that parents/carers fulfil their legal duty to ensure

their child has good attendance and punctuality. Poor attendance and punctuality negatively impact learning, personal development, and friendships. Ms Searle will monitor school records for poor attendance and persistent late arrival. We must ALL work in partnership to champion the needs of our pupils, to be on time, is to be ready and an important life skill for the world of work.

The Local Authority Attendance Officer will attend meetings with parents/carers for Attendance, whose children meet Persistent Absence (PA) threshold. Ms Searle will also contact parents whose children are close to falling below PA, to alert them and help them improve this quickly to avoid any further action. Please ask me (Miss Parker) for further information should you have any questions. Thank you for your support with attendance and punctuality.

**Contact details for parents/carers.**

Please make sure that if you change your phone number you inform school staff. Following safeguarding recommendations, we need at least 2 accurate contact details in the event of an emergency; accidents do happen and there are times when we are not able to contact a parent because they have not kept us informed. Thank you.

**Attendance and punctuality are a huge part of keeping children safe and it is the law for schools to know why and where children are if they are not in school:** schools must report children absent from school, including parts of the day, not just absent days. As a result, systems for attendance are robust and all parents have a responsibility to inform school of their child's absence – make sure you TELEPHONE Mrs Gadd 1st thing in the morning if your child is absent. Home visits are part of our Attendance procedures to check and do not be alarmed if safeguarding staff appear at your door. As a parent you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends regularly. The details of parents with children who have unauthorised absence (including those who have taken unauthorised leave during term time) will be passed to Bradford Council, who could consider issuing a Penalty Notice or starting legal action. When a child meets Educational Neglect threshold then a referral to Children's Social Care can be made.

**Arriving on time is an essential life skill** and for safeguarding reasons we must lock the school gates at 8:55am – if you are arriving at that time you will have to go to the main entrance. Equally, as a school we respect parents need children to be ready for home-time at 3:15pm to collect family members from other schools or colleges; we aim to be ready to hand the children to you at that time at the end of the day and not delay you.

Did you know....		
If in a school year, a child is late every day by....	A child would have lost approximately....	or they would have missed approximately....
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

**Late pick-up charges**

There is a late collection charge **£1, per child, for every 5 mins you are late**; sadly, some parents have been persistently late and without good reason; taking the view that it is okay for school staff to take responsibility for children after the school day. Unfortunately, we do not offer childcare after 3:15pm and many staff finish at the same time the pupils leave. Congested traffic, a late taxi, forgetting the time, having a hair colour on at the hairdressers are not acceptable reasons to be late for your child. We are understanding, if there are exceptional reasons and it is not usual for you to be late and we appreciate a phone call from you if you are going to be late, it re-assures the child as well. After school teaching staff have meetings, work to do following the school day and in preparation for the next day. Thank you for your support with this.

Have you logged on to the **National Online Safety website** to help protect your child online?

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com>

Parents, **PLEASE** monitor what child(ren) use(s) and who they have contact with online; to ensure we keep children safe and protected when they are using the internet.

Check out the tips and advice for parents to keep yourself in the know! Here are some useful websites for further information to keep children safe online:

<https://www.onlinesafetyuk.com>

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk>

**More useful websites:**  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> ,  
<https://childnet.com>,  
<https://www.internetmatters.org>



# KS2

Beech, Lime and Holly Class

## Carols and Readings



**Tuesday 19 December 2023**  
**2pm – St. William's Church –**  
**All Welcome**

# KS1 Nativity

Ash and Oak Class

## SHINE STAR SHINE!



**Monday 18 December 2023**  
**2pm - Main Hall**  
**All Welcome**

## St. William's Christmas Hamper Prize Raffle

Tickets on Sale Monday 4 December  
20p each or £1 for a strip of tickets

To be drawn on  
Wednesday 20 December 2023

Good Luck Everyone



### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Wednesday 20 December 2023  
50p per child or £1 per family

Wear your Christmas Jumper to school.



(May also wear non-uniform  
Trousers or skirts)

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 20 December 2023



£2.10

Pay at School Office or by  
Parent Pay

## ADVENT CHARITY EVENTS

*The Mini Vinnies and School Council have decided to raise money for the Bradford Toy library based at St Lukes Hospital during Advent.*



**Ash Class—6 December - Bake sale 20p**

**Oak Class - Ongoing during Advent—Guess the name of the Elf? 20p**



**Beech Class—5 December tickets go on sale for Elf hunt 50p**

**Lime Class - 12 & 13 December—Biscuit & Juice Sale 20p**



**Holly Class—6 & 7 December—Bake sale 50p each.**





## Parent/Carer Support Group

### About Us:

The Parent Support Group is an online support group, facilitated by NHS mental health practitioners. The group is a safe space for parents to get together, share their experiences and build positive relationships. A different subject is discussed each month and parents will receive useful information and strategies around the chosen monthly topic. For an invite, please email: [mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com)

**Next Parents Support Group details: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Topic: "Supporting your child: Healthy Lifestyle".**

BRADFORD AND CRAVEN  
trailblazer NHS

### Parent/Carer Support Group

Supporting Emotional and Mental Health

Tuesday  
19th December

10:30am or  
7:30pm

Held on Zoom  
Please email the  
address below

**THIS MONTHS TOPIC:  
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD: HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**

In this months Parent Support Group, we will be discussing the close relationship between physical and mental wellbeing, covering such topics as sleep, nutrition and keeping active. This topic will cover how to maintain overall wellbeing

✉ [mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:mhstparentsupport@bdct.onmicrosoft.com)

**Have a lovely weekend,  
See you all on**

**Monday 11 December 2023  
at 8.45am.**

**Remember, it's COOL to be in SCHOOL!**