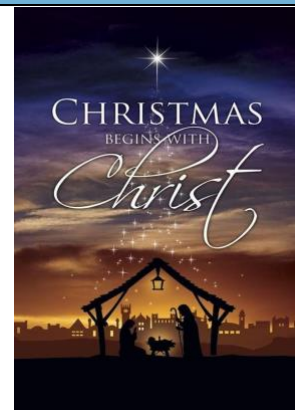


It is hard to believe that another year has passed and what a year it has been! We thought nothing could top 2020 but 2021 provided us with another year we won't forget in a hurry! As the term ends, I have reflected with a great sense of joy on the past couple of weeks in school. Although unfortunately we have been unable to go ahead with all of our plans, it was fantastic to see the return of our Nativity Plays this year which has been lovely! Over the entirety of the term, children have worked so hard. We are still catching up on lost learning from previous lockdowns and so the pace of learning has been fast. Now though I think everyone is ready for a rest (staff as well as children)!

Obviously over the last week we have heard about the rising Covid infection rates which is causing more and more restrictions. We all are desperate to enjoy a happy Christmas and some quality family time but please remember to stay safe and look after each other. I would like to say a big thank you to you all for continuing to support the school in every way possible. Without this support we could not continue to do what we do. It is with this spirit of collaboration that leads us to great things. The funds we have raised over the last few weeks will go directly back to your children in school. Finally, I need to thank all the staff from the teachers and TAs, to Mr Henry, the Office staff and cleaners and the kitchen staff and middays for their never-ending enthusiasm and commitment to the school. I am blessed to work with such amazing individuals and they continue to work so hard and show such positivity during these challenging times!



**Tuesday 4th January 2022 – INSET DAY (teachers only)**

**Wednesday 5th January 2022 – School Opens to pupils**

**Tuesday 11th January at 3:30pm – Meeting for Year 3 & 4 parents who wish for their child to make their First Holy Communion**



Today we have had a very special visitor visit every class in school. Father Christmas brought a small gift for each child and this was our way of saying thank you to the children for working so hard this term. He was so impressed to hear they were all on the 'good' list!



**Thank you from CARITAS for all the donations to the Toy Appeal.**

**Today we also say goodbye and good luck to Miss O'Donnell who we have loved getting to know over the last 18 months. I know how much she will be missed by everyone but especially the children she has taught. Miss O'Donnell is sadly leaving us to return to Ireland and we wish her every blessing, good wish and happiness for her next adventure. Please keep in touch Miss O'Donnell and come back and visit us soon.**

**Fr Niall has shared the Christmas Mass times.**

**Friday 24th December 2021 - Christmas Eve**

5.30pm Family Mass at St Michael and All Angels – Live Streamed

10.00pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

**Saturday 25th December 2021- Christmas Day**

9.30am Mass St Joseph's

11.00am Mass St Michael & All Angels – Live Streamed

**Sunday 26th December 2021 - Boxing Day**

11.00am Mass St Michael & All Angels – Live Streamed

**Some good news.....**Bethany, the Year 5 pupil who was in Alderhey is now safely home and recovering. Please keep Bethany and her family in your prayers as it will take a little while before she feels fully better, but we are delighted to hear she is home and can enjoy Christmas with her family.





**Nativity Plays** – The children were amazing! Watching the children perform and listening to them sing is definitely my favourite part of the year! Your children truly are a credit to you and it was lovely to see them really shine and give their very best. It was a beautiful way to celebrate the arrival of Christmas time.



## Key Stage 2 Carol Service

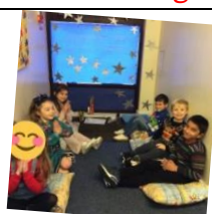
We were so disappointed to have to cancel



our Key Stage 2 Carol Service. You can now hear your wonderful children sing some of the songs from the Carol Service on our website under the TAB 'What's New?', then click on Carol Service 2021 and you will hear the children's beautiful voices. A special well done to Oliver and Honor who were our amazing soloists!



Thank you to Miss Oana who has created the most beautiful Advent themed 'Prayer Spaces' for the children to use this week.



Congratulations to all the winners of our Christmas Raffle. Our Head Boy & Head Girl enjoyed choosing the winners!!



## Thought for the day.....

This week as I watched the Nativity Plays it brought back to us all that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ. He is God's greatest gift to the world. Christ, the 'Light of the World', came to enlighten us – to show us the way to God and to confirm our hope of heaven. He came to draw everyone into his love, so that we may joyfully share in God's own life.



It has been such a busy week full of fun, laughter and partying! It has been lovely to see all the smiley faces and hear the joy in the air!



On behalf of the staff, many thanks for the generous gifts and cards we have received. It is greatly appreciated. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year! Mrs Ralph