



## St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 13th December, 2024

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents and family members who attended our Christmas performances this week. It has been lovely to see so many family members attend our school and share in this special time with us.

As a reminder, we finish school on **Thursday, 19th December, at 3:15 pm.** Please note that the school will be closed on Friday. Additionally, we kindly request no gifts for teachers next week. A simple handwritten card or festive note means so much more to any member of staff.

*Below is a summary of the exciting activities planned for next week:*

<b>Christmas Pantomime (in school)</b>	Monday, 16th December	We're delighted to welcome the outstanding Chaplin's Pantomime Company to perform <i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> for all pupils to enjoy. A nice guide to Pantos for children <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Christmas Discos Nursery - Y2</b>	Tuesday 17th	Children may wear a Christmas jumper, plain navy tracksuit bottoms and trainers for the event.
<b>Christmas Discos Y3 - Y6</b>	Wednesday 18th	Children may wear a Christmas jumper, plain navy tracksuit bottoms and trainers for the event.

<b>Y6 Christmas Carol Concert</b>	Tuesday 17th December, 6pm start, 5:50pm doors.	<p>Join us for a magical evening at St Monica's Church for our traditional Christmas Carol concert. This will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Club. Y6 families are warmly invited, and the event will also be live-streamed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> Pupils are to meet at the church at 5:40pm, dressed in full school uniform.</p>
<b>Christmas Jumper Day and Santa Dash</b>	Wednesday 18th December	<p>Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper (optional), along with school tracksuit bottoms and trainers, for the Santa Dash.</p> <p>We welcome donations of old Christmas jumpers, which are always appreciated and put to good use. An optional £1 donation for the Santa Dash will go toward Claire House, a fantastic charity making a real difference.</p>
Christmas Movie Afternoon	Thursday 19th December (final day)	<p>On our last day of term, children can bring in a treat and a drink (no nuts, please) to enjoy during a Christmas movie afternoon. Christmas jumpers may also be worn to mark the festive occasion.</p>
<p><b>Please remember: School finishes at 3:15 pm on Thursday, 19th December. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday, 6th January.</b></p>		

## St Monica's Nativity



This week, our Nativity brought the school alive. Hundreds of parents and pupils enjoyed this fantastic, memorable production over two days.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils showed great maturity - it was lovely to see the children grow in independence and confidence on that stage. I was especially proud of how every Year 2 pupil had a role to play, ensuring every child could take pride in their contribution.

With beautiful songs, exceptional acting, and moments of laughter, the production celebrated the true meaning of Christmas.

You can watch the performance [here](#).



## Reception and Nursery Christmas Performances

The Nursery and Reception Christmas

performances were simply delightful.

Watching our youngest children perform classic Christmas songs with such joy and confidence was a highlight of the week. It is something special to see such young children perform with confidence and a joyful heart.

Please enjoy both performances [here](#).



### **Year 1 Carol Singing Visit to Parish Hall**

On Tuesday, our Year 1 pupils visited St Monica's Parish Hall to spread festive cheer to the local community. Their heartfelt singing brought smiles and even a few tears of joy.

To end the afternoon, the children handed out beautifully written Christmas cards—a perfect touch to a memorable visit.

### **Timon Avenue and Kelly Drive: Parking for residents**

We kindly remind all patrons to be considerate when parking near Timon Avenue and Kelly Drive. Resident vehicles have been damaged this week, and heavy traffic has made the area inaccessible to emergency vehicles such as ambulances. Please seek alternative parking locations whenever possible.

### **Advent Mass - Week 2, Peace**

On Monday, our school family came together in St Monica's Church for a beautiful Advent Mass led by Father Ged.

Did you know the second candle of Advent is called the “Candle of Peace”? This symbol reminds us of the angels’ proclamation to the shepherds: *“Peace on earth”* (Luke 2:14). Father Ged taught us how Jesus can guide us toward inner peace during the busy Advent season, encouraging prayer and reflection as ways to stay calm and joyful.

Our Reception pupils joined us for this special Mass, sitting beautifully and engaging in the service. It was heartening to see our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils draw connections between the message of peace and their Nativity performance, particularly our shepherds!



*Wishing you a wonderful, festive weekend, and I look forward to a joyful final week at St Monica’s as we approach Christmas.*

**Warm regards,**

Mr. James Gouldbourne

Headteacher