

# St Gilbert's RC Primary School

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Head of School: Miss J. Tumelty  
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16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents,

Re: December Newsletter

As we come to the end of another fantastic term at St Gilbert's I would like to take a moment to reflect on the all the wonderful things that have happened as well as think about what 2017 may bring.

**KS1 Christmas Nativities:**

Our KS1 Christmas Nativities were delightful to see and we will miss hearing the songs sung around school. A huge well done to all the children for their dramatic skills and a big thank you to all the adults for their support with costumes and line learning.

**KS2 Christmas Service:**

Each year in KS2 we ask the children to reflect on an aspect of the Christmas Story. This year, following local concerns regarding the level of refugees in our city, we used this theme to draw parallels with the desperation of Mary and Joseph. Working with the children like this is a big part of a Catholic school's approach to collective worship as well as a huge part of our cultural identity. Thank you to all those who came and supported the school. We are always proud of our children but particularly when they rise to occasions such as this.

**Musical Instruments:**

Hopefully you have noticed the fantastic new instruments we have installed on our KS1 playground. We used money from a grant to pay for them as we believe that it will encourage creativity as well as promoting harmonious playtimes. We would politely ask you discourage younger children playing on them whilst waiting at the beginning/end of the day as it disrupts the classes nearby.

**Beat the Street:**

Well done to everyone who took part in Beat the Street. Not only is it great to hear so many of you are walking to school but it also meant that St Gilbert's won £500 worth of sports equipment!

**Willow Pod:**

If you look across the field you will notice a new structure of a pod and tunnel made out of willow. In the spring, the willow will have hopefully started rooting and will eventually fill out and flower. We had such fun making it in our wellies and hopefully will enjoy playing inside once the nice weather returns.

**Communication:**

Our primary form of communication is our website and we work hard to keep this as up-to-date and relevant as possible. We also send out newsletters and use twitter. Twitter is a free tool which, unlike many other systems, can be accessed anywhere via the internet and allows us to quickly put up photos and videos. I would encourage you to create a profile if possible so all updates are sent as notifications. In January we will begin also using text messages to supplement the website and twitter so please can you ensure that your primary mobile number is logged in the office.

**Christmas Pantomime:**

We loved our trip to the pantomime this year. The noise level was unbelievable but the behaviour was perfect!

**Defibrillator:**

Please can I remind everyone that our school has a heart defibrillator located in the KS2 corridor by the First Aid cupboard. In an emergency, the unit provides the guidance needed but we have 6 members of staff trained to use it.



**Parent Forum:**

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parent Forum. It was very interesting to hear ideas and areas which perhaps need development. In the future, please check the website where minutes of the conversations will be recorded so that all parents can be aware of the Forum even if you are not able to take part at this time.

**Christmas Lunches:**

Please can I thank the Kitchen and Welfare staff for the effort this year with the Christmas lunches and preparing the hall for the Christmas party. They are such lovely occasions with the children and part of what makes school life so vibrant.

**School Trip Payments:**

From January 1<sup>st</sup> all school trips will be paid for electronically via Parent pay [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) When your child receives a letter about their trip please use your log in details which have already been given to you for lunch payments, (your login details are the same for all payments) but if you have never had a log in for your child’s account, this will be given to you when your trip letter goes out. If you have any concerns, please contact the office.

**Christmas Card Competition:**

Well done to Grace Earl who won the Barbara Keeley MP Christmas Card Challenge. Grace created a beautiful design which has been used by our local MP as her Christmas card to constituents. Grace won the amazing prize of a family ticket to see ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’ at the Lowry.

**Christmas Cinema:**

Our Christmas Cinema was so much fun! The boys and girls ate huge hot dogs and ate far too much chocolate whilst dressed in onesies and everyone was so well behaved.

**Parish Christmas Timetable:**

Please look at the parish website to see the dates and times of the Christmas Programme [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)

**Green Trees Award:**

We are working towards achieving the Green Trees School Award from the Woodland Trust. As part of this, our Year 6 class will be leading an initiative to recycle Christmas cards. Instead of recycling all of your cards at home, could you please bring in a few for us to recycle in school to help us achieve the award.

**Security:**

We are extremely aware of the security of our school and try where possible to limit the entrance and exit points of the school. For this reason we will be tightening the opening times of the playground gates. From January 3<sup>rd</sup> both main playground gates will open at 8:30am and close at 8:55am. The gates will then re-open at 3:05pm and close at 3:20pm. Breakfast Club and After School Clubs will use the main front door.

**Thank you:**

I am sure you will agree with me when I offer a huge thank you to the staff at St Gilbert’s. Their continued smiles, grace and diligence despite the long hours and constant demands are admirable and none of this would be possible without their dedication.

Lastly, can I offer my thanks to you for the support and enthusiasm you show to St Gilbert’s on a daily basis. It is never unnoticed and always appreciated. I look forward to working with you during 2017.

Have a wonderful Christmas,

Miss J. Tumelty  
Head of School

**A Christmas Blessing**

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

**Upcoming Dates:**



Date	Event	Parent Information
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	School opens	Gates will open and close earlier – H & S
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Yr 5/6 Parents' Maths Meeting	Yr 5/6 Parents Maths' Meeting 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm in school
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Yr 5/6 Parents' Grammar Meeting	Yr 5/6 Parents' Grammar Meeting 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm in school
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Yr 4 @ Tatton Park	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 to Ordsall Hall	
w/b 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	World Faith Week + Parent Craft	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	St Gilbert's Day Treat	St Gilbert's Day Mass 2.15 p.m.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3 First Swimming session	Swimming hats essential
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes for Lunch	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Mass	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David's Day Flag ceremony and clubs uniform flag raising 2.45 p.m.	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day + Costume Parade	Mr Men and Little Miss Theme
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 to visit St Patrick's	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 @ Brockholes	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	School photograph (Classes)	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Rec heights and weights – school nurse	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 @ Robinwood	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day Ceremony	Flag raising ceremony for St Patrick's day @ 9.15 am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Heights & weights – school nurse	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents Evening @ 3.30 pm	
	Mother's Day - Nursery	
Thurs/Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fair	
	Yr 6 Heights & Weights with School Nurse	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Rec trip to Stockley Farm	
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Palm Sunday	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Rec/Nursery Palm Sunday Assembly 9.15	
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Y1/2 Last Supper Assembly 9.15	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Yr 3 Garden of Gethsemane Assembly	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Yr 4 Crucifixion Assembly 9.15	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	School Closes 3.15 p.m.	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday – School Closed	

Please remember to check the school website for more details and keep an eye out on twitter for photos and comments about the events.

