



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please take a moment to read this newsletter so you are aware of all that is happening in school in the run up to Christmas.

| Dates for your diary                 |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 | Last day of half term                                       |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 1st Nov 24    | <b>Half Term</b>  |
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024    | Return to school for Advent 2 Term                          |
| Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024    | Individual Photographs                                      |
| Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> November      | 10am Whole School Mass – all welcome                        |
| Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2024   | Aspens are pizza making with Year 2 and Year 3              |
| Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024    | Advent Retreat day – non-uniform                            |
| Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2024  | <b>9:30am and 2pm EYFS Christmas story and songs</b>        |
| Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024   | 9:30am and 2pm KS1 Christmas Nativity                       |
| Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2024   | St Mary's Parish Mass led by school children – all welcome  |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December    | Christmas disco - F2 & KS1 3:15pm–4:30pm, KS2 4:30pm–5:45pm |
| Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024   | Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day                   |
| Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024   | 2pm KS2 Christmas carols at St Mary's Church                |
| Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024   | Final day of term   |
| Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025     | Return to school  |
| Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025   | 10am Whole school mass – all welcome                        |

## Pre-Christmas APPEAL – Smartphone Free Childhood

**“When we give our children access to the whole world in their pocket, we give the whole world access to our children”**

Please take a look at the website below:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Dr Jonathan Haidt, the world's leading voice in this space, has called Smartphone Free Childhood movement "the beginning of the global tipping point in the **fight back against a phone-based childhood**".



### The hard truth

When children first started getting smartphones a decade ago, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming. We are witnessing the impact in school every single day! Exposing children to things their brains aren't yet developed enough to deal with can cause a whole host of problems, from triggering anxiety and eating disorders, to opening the door to cyberbullying or sexual predators, according to the latest research.

Parents, you have a tough call. Do you give your children access to an adult product that opens the door to harmful content, addictive algorithms and the anxiety machine that is social media? Or do you risk alienating them from their peers at a crucial stage of their development? It appears to be a lose-lose; for parents, children and society. The information on this website will help you. **BUT TOGETHER YOU ARE STRONGER!** Talk to fellow parents, reduce the peer pressure your child experiences by agreeing to give your child a Smartphone Free Childhood.

## Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance this year is 97.7%. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting your children in attending school each and every day, since the start of term. Last year, school attendance was at 99% at this point in the term. Please do all you can to ensure your child attends school if they are well to do so.

No holidays will be permitted in school time. Fines are being applied where families do take children out of school when school is open. Please do not report your child as ill if you are on holiday. This puts your child in a difficult situation. School Governors have asked that I provide information in each newsletter, to ensure families understand the new attendance legislation.



**Scenario:** A child has 3 school days off to celebrate a parent's birthday abroad. They then have 3 further days off, connected to the half term holiday. Can the parent(s) be fined? Yes, the parent(s) can. The days a child is off are accumulated.

## Punctuality

**School gates open at 8:35am.**



Please ensure your child is on the school playground before 8:45am. After this time your child is late.

On rainy days, traffic is heavier. Please aim to leave home earlier to ensure you drop off on time.

Those that live within walking distance of school, **you must be on time**. Meetings will be held with parents of children who continue to arrive late for either drop-off or collection. Letters will be sent out in the coming weeks.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us for the **MacMillan coffee morning**. So many parents attended, it was lovely to see the community come together.

£35 was raised for the MacMillan charity. Thank you to Mrs Hodgkinson for organising this event.

## Food Donations to Emmanuel House

The team at Emmanuel House were very grateful for your kind donations. The food will support those in need across Nottingham City.



## Nottingham Early Help Partnership

During parents evening we had a stall with information about 'Early help'.



The **Early Help Partnership** offers advice, information and support to children, young people and families, aiming to give the right help at the right time.

They offer courses on sleep, behaviour and the importance of getting a child's early years right.



## OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

We are excited to be starting The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme.

OPAL is based on the idea that children learn when they play. We want to make sure that playtime is as good as possible as 20% of children's time in school is playtime.

Nowadays, many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time is six hours per day.
- Average outdoor play time is five hours per week.
- 56% of UK children only play outdoors with other children at school.



There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play. These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom.

As the we improve play opportunities for your children, we will be asking you for resources, make changes to the school grounds and use more of the grounds for more of the year.

Your child might get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater choice to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences we are wanting to develop are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

Over the next 18 months, we will be inviting you to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Have a lovely half term.

Anne-Marie Bell

## Monthly Internet Safety Newsletters



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