



END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

WE WISH ALL FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF OUR
SCHOOL COMMUNITY A VERY

*Happy
Christmas*

& A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL 2024
FROM EVERYONE IN
CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEADTEACHER

MR SMITH

The school closes for Christmas Holidays on Friday 22 December at 12.30pm. Classes resume on Monday 8 January at 8.55am. There will be no Future Friday Clubs on the last day of term.

CARDINAL NEWMAN IS A ABOUT

This session as you know we have been concentrating on the principles of our AABOUT Programme (Improved Achievement, Attendance, Behaviours, Opportunities, Uniform, Timekeeping). Thank you for your support with ensuring that we achieve these aims. We cannot do this without your help. Almost every young person is now coming to school in full uniform including blazer and black shoes. We are happy to provide families with any items of school uniform – please contact us if this is the case. The merit system is working very well and young people are engaging successfully with the aims of the programme – including developing our House Saints identity.

PRELIMS

Senior pupils begin prelims on Wednesday 10 January. Prelims run until Friday 26 January. We have already published the prelim schedule. This has been emailed to parents and is also available on the school website. Please note there is no study leave during prelims.



THESE 6 PUPILS ARE THE 1ST TO ACHIEVE
100 MERITS



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SCHOOL NEWS @CN_HS

E N D O F T E R M

NEWSLETTER



FIRST TERM AUGUST – DECEMBER 2023



SCHOOL TRANSPORT

We have had a very successful first term. You will be aware via social media, the school website and the letters and certificates we have sent, of the many collective and individual successes our young people have had. They have continued to achieve and to support others and the wider community. We are very proud of all of their achievements and hard work. They are a credit to the school and to you.

This is becoming more and more expensive every bus we book. We have tried not to charge young people for the hire of buses over the last few years. As the number of clubs, teams and events continues to expand, we need to find ways of covering transport costs. We will be writing to you in the new year about some fund-raising events for a new school minibus – the last one has been scrapped.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next meeting is Monday 18 December at 6.30pm in the John Henry Newman Room. All parents are entitled to attend Parent Council meetings. We will be sending you a parental survey early in the new year on behalf of the Parent Council. One of the questions will be asking you what sort of work shops or presentations you would like us to arrange for you to attend in school during SQA examination leave. (April – June 2024). Give it some thought.



PARENT COUNCIL NEW SCHOOL MINIBUS FUNDRAISER

A first fundraiser for the new minibus is being organised by the parent council. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. We will send you more details about tickets etc. in the new year.

As always if there is anything we can do to help please do not hesitate to contact us.

**SCHOOL REOPENS**

MONDAY
8TH
JANUARY



ADVENT EDITION

LIVING OUT ADVENT FULLY IN OUR SCHOOL
COMMUNITY

Advent is a season to prepare ourselves for Christmas. This year it lasts from Sunday 3rd December until Sunday 23rd December, so is only three weeks long- that's not a lot of time to prepare!

Though we take part in many joyful things in the lead up to Christmas, such as buying presents for our family and friends, decorating our homes, going to parties; there is a lot more to Christmas than all these things.

Christmas is about Christ entering our world. It is about God coming so near to us as to become one of us in Jesus Christ. God chose to be born in poverty, in a stable, as a tiny, vulnerable little baby; that's how much he loves us and trusts us to let him enter into our hearts at Christmas.

Advent, then, is an expectant waiting, a hopeful anticipation, and a joyful preparation for God coming into our hearts and lives, both in the present and the future. Advent is a season of joyful waiting and expectation; it is not a season to stress out by rushing around shopping, pacing towards the 25th December, and only getting organised in a material way for Christmas. Advent is about preparing our hearts to receive a special guest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is born for us at Christmas.

SO HOW SHOULD WE PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS PROPERLY?

If we arrive at Christmas Day and are already fed up with Christmas, something has gone wrong with our Advent preparation!

So too, if we wake up on Boxing Day and think "that's it over for another year", we've definitely missed the point.

To make sure that this doesn't happen to us, and that we arrive at Christmas bursting with joy at the birth of Jesus, and carry that joy forward into the New Year, there are some spiritual things we can do as individuals and together as a school community.

- 1. Spend some extra time in prayer each day.**
- 2. Come to Mass in the school oratory.**
- 3. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and make a good Confession.**

CARITAS PUPIL WILL LEAD THE
SCHOOL IN PRAYER EACH MONDAY
OF ADVENT, REFLECTING ON THE
THEME OF ADVENT THAT WEEK.





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PRAYER

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful oratory in the heart of our school. The oratory is open every day for private prayer. Jesus waits for you in the Blessed Sacrament to come to him and place all the joys and worries of your lives before Him.



"The key that opens the door to the faith is prayer" (Pope Francis)

HOLY MASS



The Mass is the most precious and important moment for us as Catholics. In every Mass God speaks to us through his word in sacred scripture, and our Lord Jesus Christ is made truly present when the bread and wine are consecrated and transformed into his Body and Blood.

God does not stand at a distance from us and our lives, he comes so close to us that we can not only come into his real presence at Mass, but we even receive him into our hearts and souls in Holy Communion. This is the best way to come closer to God in the season of Advent.

ADVENT SERVICES LED BY CARITAS PUPILS

During Advent there will be a short prayer service led by our S6 Caritas pupils each Thursday at 1pm in the Oratory.

Each week we focus on a different theme of Advent:

Hope, Peace, Joy & Love.

All pupils & staff are very welcome.



During Advent we will have the celebration of Holy Mass each week in our school: Mass is celebrated every Wednesday by Fr. Parkes at the start of lunchtime (12.36pm) and is finished for 12.50pm, so pupils have plenty of time to get lunch.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

WHY SHOULD I GO?

The Sacrament was given to us by Jesus himself so that we would not have to carry the weight and guilt of the sins we commit, but rather have them completely forgiven and wiped away by Jesus in the sacrament. When we go to Confession, although the priest is present, we are actually coming directly to God, and it is God who forgives us our sins through the priest. This is very similar to the Mass where God works through the priest to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, so too in Confession it is God himself who forgives our sins.

CAN'T I JUST TELL GOD PRIVATELY THAT I'M SORRY FOR MY SINS?

It is a good thing for all of us each day to examine our conscience, that is to think through our day and be thankful to God for the good things we have enjoyed that day, and also to call to mind the things that haven't been so good, especially times that we have sinned against God or other people, and to ask for forgiveness. However this exercise, as good as it is, doesn't compare to actually going to confession. Just as in the Mass, Jesus is really present in the Sacrament of Confession and he lovingly waits for us to come to him, to tell him openly and honestly the things we have done wrong, and to ask for forgiveness and healing.

No friendship can survive without friends coming together face to face and spending time with each other; so too, we should not deny ourselves the chance to come personally to Jesus, place our struggles and sins before him, and know that He wipes them all away and restores us to our dignity as sons and daughters of God. Remember the forgiveness we receive in Confession is immediate and entire, we don't have to wait for it to start working like medicine, nor do we have to wonder if we have actually been forgiven. In the sacrament Jesus himself says "I absolve you from your sins"; everything is wiped away, nothing sticks to us, we are washed clean in his love.

RECONCILIATION AFTERNOON

All pupils will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on

**Wednesday 13th December
(periods 5-7)**

Several priests will be available, so you can be completely anonymous if you want. To go to Confession and ask God's forgiveness for any sins we may have committed, especially if we haven't been for a while or there is a particular sin that is hanging over us, it is an amazing way to prepare our hearts and souls for Christ's coming at Christmas.

Wishing each one of you, your families and friends
a happy and holy Advent season,

Fr. Stuart Parkes (School Chaplain)



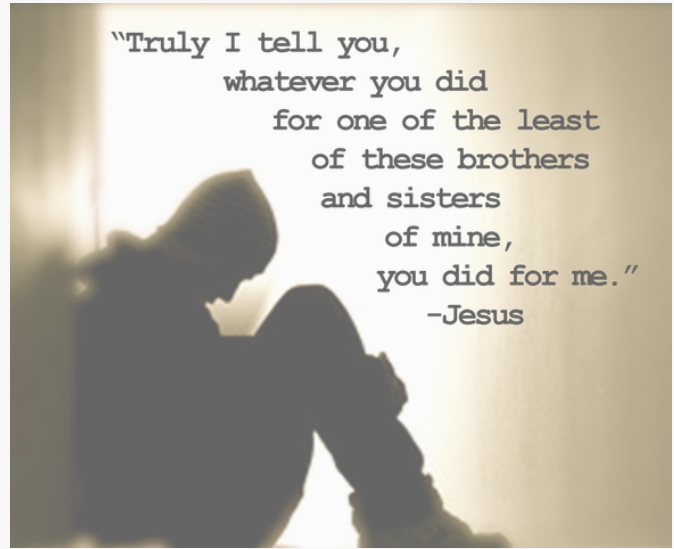
ADVENT ACTS OF CHARITY

BY MRS. BARR (PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)

It is easy during Advent to get caught up with the excitement of Christmas approaching. We shop for gifts, write lists of things we would like to receive as Christmas presents, we plan nice meals and special trips and treats. All of these things make Christmas enjoyable, but it is our Christian duty to remember to make time for those less fortunate. This does not only apply to those experiencing financial hardship, but also to those who suffer in other ways, such as through loneliness and ill-health.

ANNUAL ADVENT APPEAL

Each year in our school we are invited to make a special effort to be generous in our giving to charity. This is especially the case in R.E. when pupils set a class target which they aim to reach by the end of Advent. Money raised has helped a variety of initiatives to allow those less fortunate to enjoy a Christmas treat too! This has enabled us to help local families through donations to the Christmas hampers distributed by 'Viewcare' the home & clothing bank based in Viewpark. and in Bellshill through the multi-agency, Communities Together.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



On Tuesday 12th December, a group of pupils & staff will visit the residents of Hatton Lea Care Home to use their gifts & talents to serve others. Pupils will perform some Christmas carols and play instruments. Santa will also make special appearance to share some Christmas treats with the residents. The group will then perform at the local pensioners lunch that afternoon in the Lithuanian Club.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This Advent, pupils have been invited to donate non-perishable food items along with toiletries and Christmas treats to the Christmas Hamper collection during their registration periods in Home Room. The response has been great so far and we are on track to have 30 completed hampers for families within our school community.



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END OF TERM EVENTS @CNHS

CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH
SCHOOL
DEC 2023



SCHOOL UNIFORM

(TUESDAY 19 - FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER)

As there are so many different activities taking place during the last 4 days of the session we are proposing allowing all young people to come to school out of uniform – usual rules apply, no football colours etc.

Some young people may prefer to come in their uniform – and that is fine too.



- CHRISTMAS CEILIDH FOR S1-S3 (AFTERNOON)
- CHRISTMAS CONCERT (7PM - SCHOOL THEATRE)

Cardinal Newman High School will be getting into the Christmas spirit on Tuesday 19th December with the annual Christmas Concert.

The concert will incorporate a mixture dance, music and carols old and new - with some audience participation required!



• CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME TRIP (MORNING)



• END OF TERM ADVENT SERVICE (MORNING)

• CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME TRIP (AFTERNOON)



MORNING – CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:
ESCAPE ROOMS, CHRISTMAS QUIZ, CAROL SINGING.



SCHOOL CLOSING FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AT 12.30PM FOR PUPILS.
(NO FUTURE FRIDAY ACTIVITIES)

ADVENT @ CNHS

HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.

ADVENT SERVICES

S6 CARITAS PUPILS WILL LEAD A WEEKLY LUNCHTIME ADVENT SERVICE FOR STAFF & PUPILS IN THE ORATORY AT 1PM.

WEEK 1. HOPE THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER

WEEK 2. PEACE THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER

WEEK 3. JOY THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER

TAKE 5 MINUTES OUT YOUR BUSY WEEK TO PREPARE FOR THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. A TIME FOR QUIET PRAYER & REFLECTION

ALL WELCOME

ADVENT @ CNHS

HOPE. PEACE. JOY. LOVE.

End of Term Christmas Service

Thursday 21st December

Period 4

in the school theatre
with Fr. Parkes

Caritas pupils have been creating short videos for Home Room classes, explaining the theme of each week of Advent. These videos share what this period of preparation for Christmas is really about. You can watch these @cn_re