



"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together"

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking Year 6 for their wonderful assembly, which beautifully brought our Year of Hope to a close. As we move towards December, preparations for Christmas are now well underway. The school halls are already filling with singing, acting and festive excitement.

Carols Around the Tree

This year, we are delighted to invite our whole school community to 'Carols around the Tree', which will take place on the Junior Playground on Tuesday 16th

December at 6:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a whole school community and celebrate the season in a traditional and meaningful way.

All children must be accompanied by an adult, and we do ask that every child attends. They are all extremely excited about returning to school for this special evening.

- Children **do not** need to wear their uniforms.
- Please dress warmly and bring a **battery-powered lantern**, if you have one.
- Together, we will join in with carols and enjoy a selection of readings, prayers and poems.

Thank you to The Friends of St Vincent de Paul who will have drinks and snacks available to purchase on the night. There will of course be a collection so please do bring some spare change.

Reception Places for September 2026

Applications are now open for children starting Reception in September 2026. If you know anyone who would like a place, please encourage them to complete an application form or arrange a visit, I would be delighted to show them around.



Polite Reminder About Safety on the School Site

Please remember mobile phones are not to be used whilst on the school site. As you are aware this is for safeguarding reasons. Instead, please take this time to talk with your child, life is busy and these small moments together are so important.

For safety reasons, we also ask that all children, including toddlers, do not ride scooters, bikes or trikes on the school grounds.

Parking

Please ensure that drop-off and collection are carried out safely and considerately. We ask everyone to follow the Highway Code and park responsibly so as not to endanger others.

Additionally, please do not park in Fr. Roberts' driveway. He is sometimes called out urgently to give last rites to those who are dying and being blocked in could prevent him from reaching them in time.

Sports News

It has been a very busy and successful time for sports across the school, since my last newsletter we have:

- Welcomed Stevenage Sporting Futures who delivered some engaging workshops to our youngest pupils.
- Our Indoor Rowing Team competed brilliantly and achieved 3rd place overall—a fantastic result!
- The Boys' Football Team have played three matches, winning two and narrowly losing one in an incredibly close game.
- Our Year 5 Sports Leaders continue to work hard, offering fun and active opportunities for children during lunchtimes.
- Our Girls' Football Team, Netball Team, Gymnasts and Basketball Players are all training with great commitment, and their skills are growing from strength to strength. They are all gold-medal winners in attitude and behaviour.

Well done to every child involved, you continue to make us proud.

Parliament Team

Thank you to the St John Henry Newman School's, Head Girl and Head Boy team, who came in and delivered an assembly on British Values, democracy and the responsibility of a leadership team, they truly inspired all our Key Stage 2 pupils.

This year, those wishing to join the School Parliament Team were asked to deliver a speech to their class, explaining why they think they would make a good class representative. A very special thank you to every child who confidently stood up



and delivered a speech. The quality of speeches were exceptional and it was wonderful to see so many pupils putting themselves forward with such maturity and enthusiasm. The children have now voted and the Parliament Team is beginning their important work.

School Librarian

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Glover for returning as our Voluntary School Librarian. She is working hard to ensure our libraries are kept up to date and that children are encouraged to explore new authors and genres. We are very grateful for her time and dedication.

School Donations

A few families have recently asked to make donations to the school. If you would like to do so we have a new QR code which will be up and running very soon. More information once it is ready!

Dates

INSET Day – NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL – Friday 28th November

Reconciliation Y4,5,6	4 th December	
Y5 Advent Assembly	5 th December	2:30pm
Rec Carol Concert	8 th December	2:30pm
Nursery Nativity	9 th December	10:45am
Christmas Dinner Day	10 th December	
Christmas Jumper Day	10 th December	
Y5 Panto at Nobel School	11 th December	
Y1 & Y2 Nativity	12 th December	9:30am & 2pm
All families - Carols around the tree	16th December	6pm
Advent Reflection (Pupils only)	17 th December	
End of term	19 th December	2:00pm



Mrs A Whitty
Headteacher

Heavenly Father,

as we begin this holy season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to walk in faith and hope, to be watchful in prayer, and to live in joyful expectation of His coming.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

