



Friday 20th December 2024

Volume 2, Issue 1

### Mrs Wright's Update!

As we now start our Christmas break, we are delighted to share the latest happenings and updates from our vibrant Catholic school community. In this special edition, we focus on the spirit of Christmas, celebrating the values of love, kindness, and togetherness that define this festive season. Our school has been alive with the spirit of Christmas! It was lovely to welcome so many parents at Miss Grosch's Class Advent afternoon. The children sang beautifully and it started Christmas for me.

Once again, our Nativity service at the Cathedral was so special, magical and holy. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for preparing the pupils for the service. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for the impact they have on our children's lives every day. It was lovely to see so many parents/ carers and families at the service. Our partnership in the education and spiritual growth of our children is invaluable. The strong bond between home and school is a partnership that is crucial in nurturing the whole development of our young people. Our incredible pupils that evening, brought the first Christmas story to life, showing that our school is truly a school of joy and I was so proud of everyone. Our choir sang beautifully to the residents of Notre Dame care home and they brought the spirit of Christmas to the whole community.

In November, the whole school walked to the memorial of No Place Memorial Gardens to commemorate Remembrance Day. We discussed the significance of Remembrance Day and the children were shocked to read the ages of the fallen on the grave stones. The pupils made a giant poppy cross that we will use every year. Thank you to Mrs Laidlaw for her creativity and vision. Miss Gollaghy's class made a film for the Devonport Footprints which was screened at Market Hall to the public and the school. A special thank you to Gary and all the staff at Real Ideas for making this possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs Nankerville, who has worked at this school for many years, as she moves into the next chapter of her life. She has cared for so many pupils both past and present and she is loved by all. We will miss her soooooo much! We wish her all the best in this next phase of her life and hope she comes back to visit!

We also say goodbye to Mr Davies and wish him all the best in his next school. We look forward to welcoming Miss Toms back in January, 2025.

As we anticipate the New Year, we are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. We are now considered very due for our Ofsted Inspection. Our last Ofsted Inspection graded us 'Requires Improvement'. We know, since that judgement, we as a school and community have made rapid progress both academically and pastorally and we look forward to showing this in our inspection when it comes.

Finally, may the blessings of Christmas fill your hearts with peace and joy. From my family to yours, and on behalf of the entire Cathedral School community, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and holy New Year.

God bless



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## Catholic Life and Events

### Catholic Life

This half term we gathered together as a whole school family to create our Advent Wreaths. We learned about the meaning of the wreaths and the symbolism of each part. They have been placed around the school and the candles have been lit to countdown the Sundays to Christmas.



Never missing an opportunity to come together, we held our annual Christmas lunch. Thank you to Sam and Lisa for providing a delicious meal and an opportunity to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas.



A beautiful evening was spent at the cathedral for our Christmas Carol Concert. The children sang beautifully and retold the Nativity story incredibly well. Thank you to everyone who came to support our school community.



### Collective Worship

#### Regular events in St Joseph's, Devonport

##### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30pm-7:30pm Each Wednesday. Adoration prayer in both Polish and English.

##### Rosary group led by Polish people

Tuesdays at 6pm. All are welcome.

##### Polish Marian Children Group

Every other Sunday

##### Prayer in Polish.

4pm every first Saturday of each month.



#### Regular events in The Cathedral Centre

##### Ecumenical Bible Study Group:

Thursdays -10.00am coffee/tea, 10.30-11.30am.

##### Legion of Mary:

Thursday, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

##### Union of Catholic Mothers:

Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm.

##### St Pio Prayer Group:

On the first Friday of every month after 7.00pm Mass, all are welcome. Contact: Rev. Deacon Tony Irwin, Tel. 01548 853413.

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## Congratulations!



### Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

We have high expectations for all of our pupils to arrive at school each day and on time. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Grosch	86.88%
Miss Galloghly	89.38%
Mr Davies	91.15%
Mrs Berry	88.48%

The highest attendance this half term goes to...



**Mr Davies Class**

As a 'well done' for winning this half term's attendance, your class have earned an extra 20 minutes of playtime- keep up the excellent work!



### Heart of Gold Awards

**Miss Grosch's Class**

The heart of gold this week goes to my whole class! They have had a pretty good half term in general but they particularly wowed me in assembly yesterday. We had an assembly with Pilgrim Pete and they were all brilliant. Well done

**Miss Galloghly's Class-**

The Heart of Gold winner goes to Leo. He has shown a brilliant heart of gold in the past few weeks of term. He has been his polite, kind and respectful self which has helped with his behaviour in the class too. I hope he can continue this into our next term, well done!

**Mr Davie's' Class-**

The Heart of Gold award this week goes to Joseph for doing all of his additional home learning. He has worked incredibly hard in class and he has been a supportive friend to his classmates.

**Mrs Berry's Class-**

Tillie is an asset to our whole school community. She is caring and kind and incredibly popular due to the way she interacts with adults and children. This year, Tillie has become a huge support and has been relied upon to support children across the school. Well done Tillie! And thank you.





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## News and Events

### Meet the Staff The return of Miss Toms



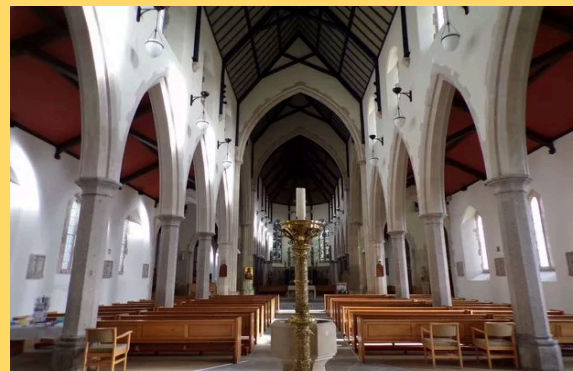
Hello everyone!  
Some of you already know me, but for those who don't, I'm Miss Toms.

I was the year 1 teacher here at Cathedral last year, and I went over to our sister school St Joseph's in September to teach the year 2 class. I am looking forward to coming back to Cathedral in January, and I am excited to be returning to teach some of my previous students in the 1/2 class.

In my spare time, I like to keep active and I enjoy long walks. I also love spending time with my children and supporting their hobbies, which happen to be at the side of the football pitch every weekend.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and a happy and healthy new year, and I will see you all in the new year.

### Regular events in The Cathedral Centre



**Ecumenical Bible Study Group:**  
Thursdays - 10.00am coffee/tea, 10.30-11.30am.

**Legion of Mary:**  
Thursday, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

**Union of Catholic Mothers:**  
Tuesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm.

**St Pio Prayer Group:**  
On the first Friday of every month after 7.00pm Mass, all are welcome. Contact: Rev. Deacon Tony Irwin, Tel. 01548 853413.

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children:**  
Meet in the Cathedral Centre, third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Contact Christine Hudson Tel. 01752 224018.

**Knights of St Columba:**  
Every second Monday of the month at 6.30pm.

### [The Cathedral Centre Events](#)



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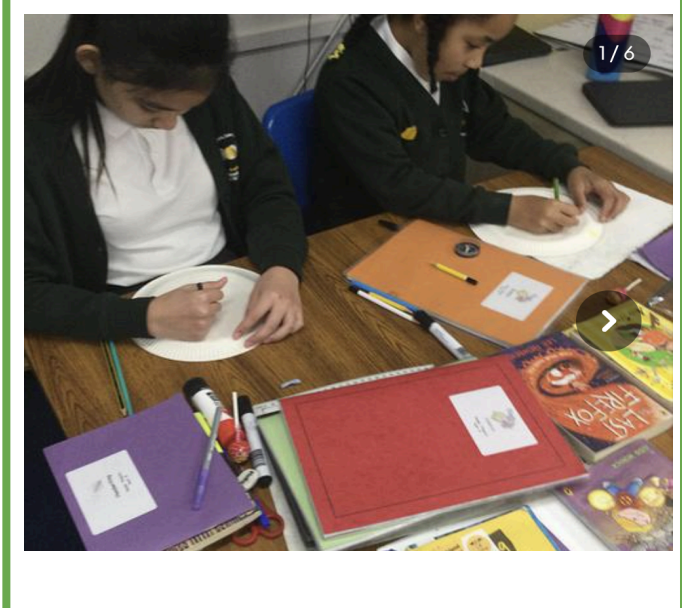
We love to learn!



The whole school enjoyed a visit from PAFC community trust to learn about Project35 and they had a special visit from Pilgrim Pete!



EYFS enjoyed making salt dough which they used to make some wonderful Christmas decorations during their advent afternoon.



In a science lesson, we made sundials and learnt how people could use the sun to tell the time.



The whole school came together for a wonderful Christmas lunch which was cooked by our fantastic kitchen staff!



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Some of our children took part in an archery afternoon at St Joseph's. A super afternoon enjoyed by all who took part.



In UKS2, we learnt how to sew and we stitched together our waistcoats using techniques we had learnt. .



Some of the children had the opportunity to go to Market Hall. It was a fabulous event and the children had a wonderful time.



We had a visit from the road safety police who told us the importance of stopping, looking and listening when crossing the road.





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## Christmas Events

### COSY CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND STORIES

Monday 16th December: Plympton Library, 3.30-4.30pm  
 Monday 16th December: Crownhill Library, 3.30-4.30pm  
 Monday 16th December: Efford Library, 3.30-4.30pm  
 Thursday 19th December: Plymstock Library, 3.30-4.30pm  
 Thursday 19th December: St Budeaux Library, 3.30-4.30pm  
 Friday 20th December: Central Library, 2.30-3.30pm  
 Friday 20th December: Southway Library, 3.30-4.30pm

**BARNARDOS** Changing childhoods. Changing lives.  
**PLYMOUTH LIBRARIES**

### Neurodiversity Fun Day

Reserve your tickets at Eventbrite - Neurodiversity Fun Day - Plymouth

HAMOAZE HOUSE GEORGE STREET MOUNTWISE  
 PLYMOUTH PL1 4JQ

Friday 3 January 12-3pm

### EMAZDAD RAFFLE QUIZ BASKETBALL PRINCESSES

Sponsored by Livewell Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

### PLYMOUTH - ESTABLISHED 1959 - MARKET

# Christmas

MEET SANTA | COMPETITIONS | ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 7th, 14th & 21st December 11am-4pm

WWW.PLYMOUTHMARKET.CO.UK/EVENTS

### Breakfast with Santa at The Box

The Box  
 Tavistock Place  
 Plymouth  
 Devon  
 PL4 8AX

01752 304774  
 Email  
 Visit Website

Add to Planner





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## Advice and Support

### We are Readers

Mrs Berry's class is currently reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar. The protagonist of the story is Stanley Yelnats, a young boy who lives with the consequences of his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. After an unfortunate misunderstanding Stanley finds himself digging holes in Green Lake, Texas, as an alternative to a juvenile detention centre.



# ATTENDANCE

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons



### Attendance updates

This term has seen an incredible improvement in attendance across the school. Although there has been a slight dip over the last few weeks, overall we are above the Local Authority average and we are 2% better than this time last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support regarding attendance and the improvements that we have made. This has been a collective effort and one which we should be proud of. Thank you everyone- I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful and peaceful Merry Christmas.

Mr Moore



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## Advice and Support

### Dates for your diary

Monday 6th January 2025- Children return to school

Wednesday 8th January 2025- Chris Lubbe visit to St Josephs (Yr 4,5,6 to attend).

Monday 27th - 31st January 2025- Nethercott House Residential (Yr 4)

Monday 3rd -Friday 7th February - Bikeability

Friday 7th February - School Photographs (Individual photos only)

Monday 17th - 21st June- Half Term

Monday 24th February - Non pupil day

Tuesday 25th February - Term commences - children back to school



### Uniform Store Plymouth

The uniform store Plymouth is a free service for families to kit out their children for school.

Through donations of good quality school uniform, we give the items to those in need, free of charge.

Our service is open to anyone to use- no referral is needed.

**We are located at:**

**93 New George Street, Plymouth City Centre, PL1 1RQ**

**Opening hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
10am-1pm.

[Plymouth Uniform store](#)

### Is your child eligible for free school meals?

If you receive certain benefits then your child may be entitled to a free school meal and if so, their school receives extra funding. This means it's important to apply, even if your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and already receives a free lunch.

Check the criteria and apply online: [Free School Meals Plymouth](#)

IS YOUR CHILD  
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE  
SCHOOL MEALS?



 @cathedralschoolofstmary

 @cathedralplym

Love

Resilience

Aspiration

Honesty

Teamwork

Courage





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# FOOD REQUEST

The Cathedral School of St Mary

have teamed up with

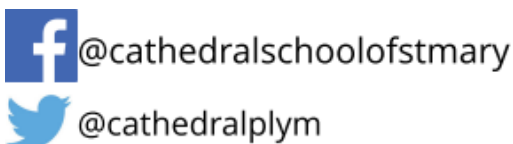
Love in action group -

The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface



*If you email Marianne our School PSA, by Tuesday 2pm of the week you require help with food, you will be able to collect from School on The Wednesday/Thursday*

[t.cook@plymouthcast.com](mailto:t.cook@plymouthcast.com)#



Love  
Resilience

Aspiration  
Honesty

Teamwork  
Courage