

The Convent Chronicle



Friday 5th January 2024

Happy New Year!

Inspiring Ambition,
Achieving Excellence

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back all and I hope that your daughter is settling in as the term begins in earnest. Thank you for sending your daughter back looking well in her uniform- fixed up and looking sharp!

As the weather gets cold, although we have all been incredibly hot in school today as the heating is on, can you please ensure that your daughter has a coat. We are expecting a cold and wet snap - an umbrella is useful as it is not always possible to get to the canteen through the hall due to events such as exams or assembly. The canteen is open before school, from 8am if the weather is inclement, but we do like girls to have at least half an hour out of doors in the healthy air at lunchtime when we can get them out.

Although we said a sad goodbye to some fabulous members of staff, we welcome Mrs Fraser and Mrs Paixao, who join us in RE and MFL. Their start is slightly delayed until the 22nd January - work is being set by both Heads of Department until they arrive. We have welcomed Mr Evans back into our fold as our History and Geography teacher.

We congratulate Ms Bird on becoming the new SENCO, having completed her training, and Ms Duque-Mora who is now the Head of Modern Foreign Languages. Mrs Beck should also be congratulated on succeeding Mrs C Smith, who will retire shortly, as the school's attendance officer.

We wish all our new staff every success and staff new to their roles too.

The Homework club begins again on Monday 8th January. As per Mrs Gardner's email, also shared on Google classroom with the girls, the Homework club has become so popular that we have had to split the locations to ensure computer access. Both rooms will remain staffed.

'Christmas Begins'.

When the song of the Angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the Magi and elders are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the Hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all peoples,
To make music in the heart. Amen

Alongside this the Year 11 intervention timetable remains in place. With not many weeks to go, GCSES begin in earnest in May 2024 with Art, Textiles Photography, MFL Speaking exams and Drama before this, it is important that your daughter takes up what is on offer - for free! You will have to help her navigate her way around it; it is on a 2 week timetable and she cannot attend everything. Please see intervention timetable on the next page.

The Bishop has asked that we keep the crib up in school until the 2nd February, a date known as Candlemas. **Candlemas** is the feast of the **Presentation of our Lord Jesus**, one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. This is when Jesus would have been taken to the temple for the first time after his birth. The crib is however a good reminder that the business of Christmas is not over, even if we take down the decorations this weekend on the Epiphany!

Enjoy the weekend, I think we should have just 2 days a week in school, don't you?!

Penny Johnson
Headteacher



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2022 - 2023



Order of the British Empire

Civil Division

Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

St. James's Palace, London SW1

30 December 2023

THE KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

M.B.E.

To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Nilesh Bhasker DOSA

Founder, *icanyoucantoo*

For services to Social Equality.



The hugest of congratulations go to Nilesh, offering his services to us in maths tuition via his company 'Icanyoucantoo'. Wowee, an MBE!! We are incredibly proud of you Nilesh!!

Year 11 Intervention 2023-2024

WEEK 1					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	Art-(KG rm16) Music		Photography (JL) History (LW)	Textiles (KP)	
After School	Science		Food (LC) Maths w/ Nileshe	Geography (DD, RM1)	

Week 2					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	PE (Aiming higher)-KW PE (Making the grade)-SF		Math (SMA) D&T	Math (PM)	Computing
After School	English (PJ) Sets 4, 5 & 6	MFL (DPD)	Maths w/Nileshe RE (POH, Jan-May 24)	Drama MFL (SLE)	Maths (MAS GA,MT)

Option J	Option K	Option L	Option M
Fine Art	Art Textiles	Art Textiles	Computing
Drama	Design Tech.	Drama	Food
Food	French	Food	French
French	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	Media
Media	Media	Media	Music
	PE	Photography	Photography

Key Dates and Events

Wednesday 10th January	**Year 11 Art/Textiles/Photography trip to V&A Museum**	Year 11
Thursday 18 th January	Year 6 Primary Creative Taster Day	Year 6
Thursday 25 th January	Year 11 Parents' Evening	Year 11
Friday 26 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day – Justice & Peace Group	

****REMINDER****

The trip to the V&A Museum is on **Wednesday 10th January**.

Please make sure your daughter is wearing full school uniform (no jewellery or makeup please). She should wear comfortable shoes or trainers. It is essential that she brings her sketchbook, pencil case/drawing equipment. She should also bring a camera, a phone if she has one, and a packed lunch. She will register as normal and come to Room 16 for Period 1.

Feast of the Epiphany

This feast is traditionally celebrated on 6th January, but this year the Holy Day of Obligation is transferred to Sunday 7th January 2024.

Miss Collis gave a lovely assembly about the Epiphany relating it to our understanding of diversity. The Epiphany is the day when the wise men (the kings) who had been seeking the new born King whose reign will be without end, came to worship Jesus. The wise men came from different parts of the world, from different countries and cultures: they represent all of us, the gentiles (non-Jews) and Jesus welcomes everyone. Epiphany means showing and it is the day that Jesus was revealed to the whole world.

On the Continent, the Feast of the Epiphany is called Little Christmas and it is the day they give their Christmas presents because the kings gave Jesus gifts of **gold** for a king, **frankincense** because he is God, and **myrrh** for burial, because he is the sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and rises again, bringing eternal life to us all. Jesus is the Light of the World, bringing light and hope in our darkness, for he has overcome the world. Our future is secure in Him.

In our Form prayers we have also been thinking about the Epiphany, and reflecting on Emmanuel, God with us and the many ways he reveals himself to us in our daily lives.

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Epiphany, the Showing of Christ to the World



700yrs before the birth of Jesus, the Prophet Isaiah (60:3,6) foretold:
"Nations will be drawn to your light and kings to the dawning of your new day... They will come from Sheba, bringing gold and incense."

Psalms 72: "The kings of Spain, Arabia and Ethiopia will bring him offerings. All kings will bow down before him."

When the Wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down and worshipped him. Then opening their treasures, they presented him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matt. 2:11

(Gold for a king, frankincense for God and myrrh for his burial.)



The Epiphany is known as Little Christmas! 'Our Christmas', because the wise men were from different countries and represent all the nations of the world. Jesus welcomes everyone and invites us all to come close to him as brothers and sisters in the one family of God. The wise men persevered in their long journey searching for Jesus until they found and worshipped him.

Reflection: Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us always.

He is not hiding from us. He uses all our faculties - intelligence, senses, imagination etc. to communicate with each one of us in our own personal way. We encounter his presence in: those in need, in children, through the kindness of others, through dreams, through the beauty of nature, through art, music, dance, sport, through the wisdom of our elders, those who God provides to care for us, through his holy Word in the Bible and especially in receiving Him in Holy Communion at Mass. Wherever there is loving kindness, God is there. Our personal epiphany is when we suddenly recognise and understand his presence with us.

Where have you seen Jesus during the Christmas holiday?

The wise men offered precious gifts. What gift will you offer to Jesus? (One of our most precious gifts is time.)

The wise men knelt down and worshipped him. Do you spend time with God in loving worship? True worship is to do God's will and obey him.

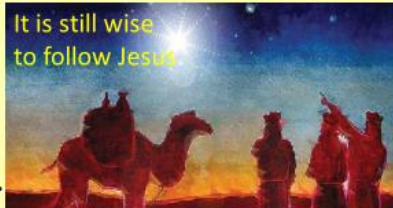
To be a Christian means to be a follower of Christ - to be like Christ, everywhere, at all times. How can we be more Christ-like (gentle, loving, kind, fair, honest, compassionate) this year?

In a minute of silence let us reflect on these questions.

(Pause for 1 minute)

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, please give us the wisdom to follow Jesus and help us to grow in his likeness. Let the light of his love shine through us to every one we meet. As stars shine only in darkness, may we shine with his goodness by doing the right thing, even when no one else is; and help us to be honest and trustworthy even when we think no one is watching, as God sees all that is done in secret and will reward us for our goodness.



It is still wise to follow Jesus

Jesus is the Light of the World



Happy New Year
2024

God bless you and all your families with his love, joy, peace, health and prosperity.

The dreams you have today are only a shadow of God's dreams for you.

May you walk in the light of his love as He opens and prepares the way to your secure and happy future.

On the Feast of the Epiphany traditionally Christians blessed their homes and marked them in chalk above the door with the year, crosses and initials of the 3 Wise Men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The letters also stand for the Latin words Christus Mansionem Benedicat which means Christ bless our home. 20+C+M+B+24. This originates from the Book of Exodus, when God's people marked their houses in the blood of the lamb and they were saved.

There are some House Blessings for you to choose from below. God bless you,

Miss Carson

An Irish blessing on your Home
 May God bless your home from its foundation to its roof.
 May he bless every door post every stone and timber.
 May he bless the family and table on which the food is set.
 May he bless every room for sound sleep at night.
 May he bless the door that we open willingly to the poor and to the stranger as well as to our relatives.
 May he bless the windows which let in the light to us from sun, moon and stars.
 May he bless the roof above our heads and each firm wall surrounding us today.
 With our neighbours may peace and love abound.
 May God bless this family of ours and keep it from danger;
 And may He lead us all to his own kindly house of hospitality for ever. Amen.



God Bless Our House

God bless the corners of our house that hold the roof above
 And bless the hall and bless each wall and bless our hearts to love.
 God bless all those who live within, and all who enter here.
 And bless the door and bless the floor and keep us all sincere.
 God bless the rooms in which we sleep and where we find our rest.
 And bless the thought and bless the talk and bless our every guest.
 God bless us each and every one, our lives please help and guide.
 We ask for health before our wealth and peace with us abide.



Home Blessing

I ask the blessing of your peace in my home
 and in the homes of all my loved ones.
 Grant a time of peace to my family,
 the kind of peace the world cannot give;
 Your healing peace in the depths of our hearts,
 Your gentle solace in the midst of our cares.
 Lord please stay close to us all and bless our hearts with your peace. Amen.



Home Blessing

Lord God of heaven and earth,
 You revealed your Son to every nation by the light of a star.
 Bless our home and all who live here and those who visit us.
 Fill us with the light of Christ,
 That our love for one another reflects your love for all people. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen



Home Blessing

O God, you revealed your Son to all people
 by the shining light of a star.
 We pray that you bless our home
 and all who live here by your gracious presence.
 May your love be an inspiration, your wisdom our guide,
 your truth our light, and your peace be our blessing;
 through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Home Blessing

May the Lord let his face shine upon you,
 The light of his presence cast its glow over you,
 The light of his goodness radiate in your hearts and into your home
 And burn brightly to guide you all in the way of his peace. Amen



Home Blessing

May the Lord bless you all who live in this house,
 all who rest within these walls.
 May he bless your hopes, your dreams,
 bless your sharing, bless the yearnings of your hearts,
 bless your lives in every possible way.
 And may he bestow on all who dwell here the gift of his peace. Amen.

