

# St James' Catholic Primary

## "Great News"

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The staff at St James' wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we celebrate the Joy of the Nativity, may the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ inspire us all to share joy and kindness with others.

### STAFF UPDATES

At the end of this term, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mrs Malone. After 21 years of dedicated service here at St James' Mrs Malone will be starting a new job in January, working with children. Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm. You have brought so much joy and laughter to the St James' community and we will all miss you dearly. Mrs Leung will now be the full-time teaching assistant in Nursery, supporting children alongside Mrs Kinder and Miss Bostock.

Miss Hallows is returning in January after her maternity leave and will be teaching in Year 6 alongside Mr Horne. From January, Miss Birtles will be the Year 4 class teacher, supported by Mrs Collins. Also, Miss Chapman will be returning to her class teacher role in Year 3, alongside Mrs Allen.

### MORE FOOTBALL SUCCESS

The boys football team has continued its winning streak against Arundale in the Millea Cup. A very convincing 8-2 win. Thank you, Mr Partridge and Mrs Collins, for preparing our team so well. Best of luck boys in the quarter finals.

### EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

After a few weeks of good attendance, unfortunately this has dipped slightly. Let's return in January all fit and well and continue to encourage excellent attendance. As you know, time away from school has a negative impact on pupils' progress and attainment. Please try to make appointments outside of the school day and do remember that holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may lead to a penalty fine. If you would like some support or guidance with attendance matters, please do contact us in school.

Children are enjoying our new golden ticket class attendance incentive, announced each week in our Community Assembly. Most classes have now won a golden ticket and prizes have included: Just Dance Party, extra Golden Time, parachute games, movie afternoon and an art party. The elusive own clothes day ticket has been claimed by Year 4. All children with 96% or above attendance at the end of this Autumn Term will receive a certificate and will be entered into a prize draw. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize worth £100, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (worth £30) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (worth £20). Prizes will be announced in the Community Assembly tomorrow.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Tomorrow, during our Community Assembly, we will announce the eight children (one child from each class) who will receive a special recognition award based on their outstanding behaviour, hard work in

class and contributions to the wider school community. An overall winner will then be announced and will receive our star prize!

### NATIVITIES

We have had two wonderful Nativities for EYFS (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1/2). Thank you to all the staff involved for preparing our children so well and thank you to parents for your support.

### CAROL CONCERT

We had a beautiful Carol and Brass Concert on Friday. It was very well attended by parents and Father Owen was very impressed by our talented children. Thank you to all the staff involved in setting up the church and also to Mrs Kinder, Mr Conway, Mrs Collins and Miss Walker for preparing our children so well.

### AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Please remember that these sessions need to be booked in advance, at least the day before, using the app. All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. **Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment.**

### WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, fruit and salad.

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WRAPAROUND

The children have enjoyed some special Christmas themed wraparound sessions, including crafts, party games and movies. These have all been very well attended and we are already planning more for the new year.

### TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 18th December	Attendance/Special Recognition Assembly (including raffle draw)
Thursday 18th December	KS2 Christmas Party (wear own clothes)
Thursday 18th December	Hattersley Brass 4pm at Tesco
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term (school finishes at 3:30pm with usual clubs until 6pm)
Monday 5th January 2026	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January	School Reopens for pupils