

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary Monthly Update

Living, loving and learning together
with our eyes focused on Jesus.



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Dec 2022

Issue 4
(2022-2023)



[@OLQM EshW](https://twitter.com/OLQM_EshW)

This will be our final newsletter of 2022 – the Christmas edition! It's a long one, you might need a sit down with a cup of tea and a mince pie. I'm sure we all agree, what a busy but brilliant year we have had! I hope the Christmas holidays allows us all to get some much-needed down time with all our loved ones and help us recognise the true importance of Christmas. Thank you all for your support in 2022 and I wish you every glad tiding over the Christmas season and the happiest of new year's.



Christmas is coming to Our Ladys! We have more events and activities planned to look forward to this month than Santa has presents in his bag on Christmas eve so make sure to put all the dates in your diary.

Louise Keenan

#Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

#Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

Christmas Post Box

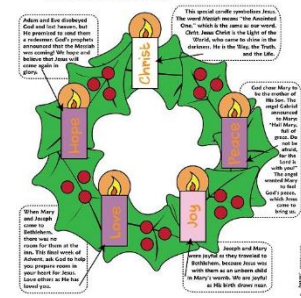
From Monday 5th December, our Christmas Post Box will be available in the hall so that the children can send cards to others in the school. All cards must be clearly labelled with the name (surname too if possible) and class. Children in class 4 will deliver the cards to the children daily at the end of the school day. Class lists are available from the school office from Santa's helper (Miss McKenna).

Advent

On Sunday, it will be the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a call to followers of Christ to remember the birth of Jesus.

The word advent stems from a Latin word that means "coming" or "arrival." Its purpose is to help believers remain focused on the birth of Christ and Jesus' glorious return as the real reason to celebrate Christmas. The Advent season is divided into four weeks, and each week features a different liturgical theme. Traditionally, the first week remembers the hope and expectation of the Jewish people as they looked forward to the Saviour's arrival — and it also reminds believers today to wait expectantly for Jesus' second coming. The second week focuses on preparation: Over many centuries, God prepared the hearts of the Jews for Christ's coming, just as He is now working in our hearts to prepare us for Christ's second coming. The third week joyfully celebrates the coming of the Messiah, and the final week celebrates God's peace and love – a time when we begin to prepare for the coming of Jesus. We will be celebrating Advent in school with the children and now you can explain when they ask you questions!

THE COLOR OF ADVENT IS PURPLE. THERE ARE THREE PURPLE ADVENT CANDLES, AND ONE ROSE-COLORED. THE CHRIST CANDLE IS PURE WHITE.



Reverse advent calendar – from 28th November

We have already had an amazing response to our reverse advent calendar so far but please continue to send in anything you can spare.



Reverse advent calendar is a fun and easy way to help those in need. The idea is to concentrate on giving and helping, rather than only receiving and is a fantastic message to teach our children. All donations will be passed to local foodbanks for those in need. Whilst the charity are grateful for any donations received, this year particularly useful items are:

- Tinned meat (stewing steak, ham, mince, corned beef, hot dogs etc.)
- Instant coffee, dilute orange, instant hot chocolate, tea bags
- Sugar, spray cooking oil
- Lentil or leek & potato tinned soup
- Tinned rice pudding, custard or large tins of evaporated milk
- Tinned potatoes and vegetables
- Dried rice/noodle meals (just add water)
- Toilet rolls, cleaning products

Many thanks in advance for your donations.

Christmas Production - Wednesday 7th December and Thursday 8th December

Our children will be performing their Christmas Production in the school hall on Wednesday the 7th at 10am and on Thursday 8th at 6pm to their families. Tickets are available from Miss McKenna but due to demand and seating requirements we can only provide each family with 2 tickets. Once these have been distributed we will draw names out of a hat for remaining tickets.

Can I please remind you all that this is the first really big whole school event that we have undertaken in nearly 3 years and some of our children are a little nervous and apprehensive. I know you will support and encourage them on the day and night and more importantly love every minute.

To help with the nerves and so that all visitors can hear, as well as giving more room, we are asking (just as we did during Covid times) that no babies or children are brought to the productions. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Prior to the upcoming Christmas performances, it is necessary that guidance is given related to videos, photography and sharing of images. It is preferable that you DO NOT take photographs or video during the performance. If you do photograph your child, please ensure it is only your child and remember you are not permitted to share images of children, other than your own, on any social media.

I know that you will want to ensure that the safety and welfare of all children is protected by this arrangement. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in this matter.

Festive Fun Run – Fri 16th December

This will be organised and run by the School Sports Partnership (SSP). Children may run in PE kits or fancy dress. Everyone will need a full change of cloths (including shoes and underwear) in case they get wet or muddy.

Brass Band Concert – Tuesday 13th December

Durham Brass Band Music services will be coming into school to perform for us a wonderful concert full of Christmas songs to get us in the mood for Christmas.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day – 14th December

All children are invited to have school dinners on this day and menus should have been returned by now. It is usually a great day and the children enjoy eating a special meal together while Christmas Music plays. Everyone (having lunch or not) is invited to wear a Christmas Jumper. If you'd like to, you may wish to also donate to Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day charity fundraiser.

Carol Concert – Mon 19th December 2.30pm

We will be hosting a Christmas Carol Concert in Church for all our parents, children and families. Come and sing traditional carols with us and get into the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Celebration Day – 21st December

Children may come in party clothes, fancy dress, Christmas jumpers or uniform. Please be aware that children will play outside and may become dirty during the school day.

Upcoming Dates

I have added some key dates for the rest of the term and the start of the new year in the hope that they give you some advanced warning. Please be aware that they may be subject to change and of course, more dates will be added as the diary fills.

This Month our Virtue to Live By is:

Patience

“Be patient and wait for the Lord to act, don't be worried about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans. Don't give in to worry or anger; it only leads to trouble.” (Psalm 37:7-8)

Definition of patience - You are able to wait without complaining because you know that some things take time. You are calm and trusting.

You know that waiting is sometimes painful or hard to do but you trust that later on something good will happen. You have enough self-control to wait and tolerate something because you know that you can't control the way someone is acting or what is happening.

In our Liturgical prayer and house groups we will be talking and learning about:

I can wait.

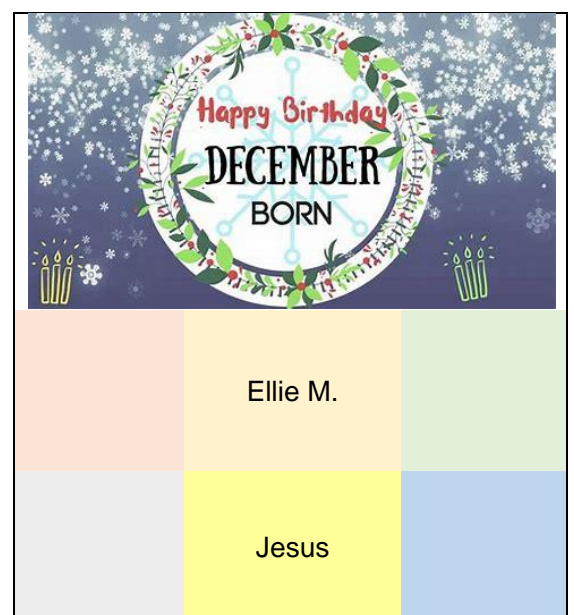
I use strategies to keep myself calm.

I can do something now that will help me in the future.

I can accept things I cannot change with humour and grace.

I am patient with myself when I make mistakes.

I am patient with others when they mistakes.



Dates for this month - OLQM

(May be subject to change)

December

7 th	Whole School Christmas Performance 10am
8 th	Whole School Christmas Performance 6pm
14 th	Christmas Lunches and Christmas Jumpers day
16 th	Christmas Fun Run
19 th	Christmas Carols 2:30pm in Church
21 st	Christmas celebration/Parties
22 nd	Break up for Christmas Holidays
January	
19 th	New Age Curling – KS2 Class TBC
20 th	Y5/6 Bikeability