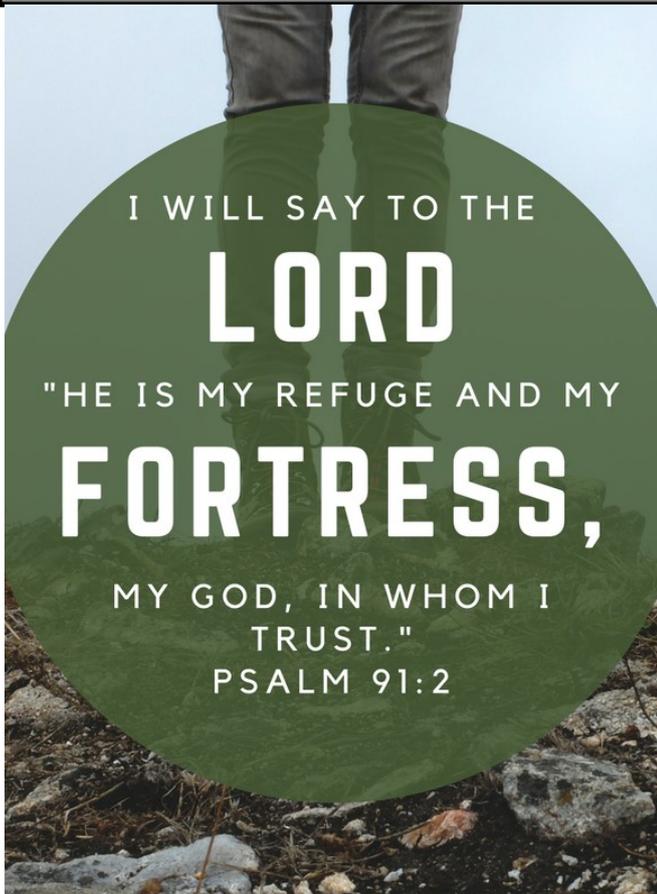


# Headteacher's Newsletter

2 December 2019

Christian Value for this half term:

Trust



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the December newsletter!

As Christmas is fast approaching the busyness of life is stepping up a gear. This week marks the beginning of Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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We will be encouraging the children over the next few weeks to take a moment to step back and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

In order to keep down stress levels please have a good read of the calendar of events at the end of the newsletter and also note the following:

**Christmas dinner day:** children can also wear a Christmas jumper instead of school jumper (they must wear the rest of their uniform as normal though!). Children may also bring a Christmas cracker in if they wish.

**Class parties:** children will need a 'party plate' - this has everything they are going to eat and drink, along with a plate to put it on. Putting everything in a named bag is helpful, then they can put it all on their paper plate themselves. Be mindful that parties are usually after lunch, when they're already full!

As we have now moved into the winter season we also notice a change in the weather. As I write this newsletter the car park is glistening with the frost on the tarmac. Please be aware that we do struggle with the state of the car park as it doesn't like to defrost—it seems to have all the time in the world! The same is true of Greenstone Avenue. Take extra care when driving down, keep to low speeds and where possible park and walk down. Mr Ashton inspects the grounds every morning to see if it is slippery and as a last resort the gates get shut to all traffic. We will always let you know via text if we need to do this. We grit walkways but sometimes also need to shut the paths into the playgrounds if the playgrounds are particularly hard hit.

Best wishes,  
Mrs Graham  
Headteacher



## Posada

Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn', and is also the title for a Mexican Advent celebration in which two young people dressed as



Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the newborn baby be given a room.

The idea has been updated so that nativity figures will travel round our classes and school community from place to place, staying at a different house every night, and finally taking their place in St. Catherine's church at the Christingle ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day.

Mary and Joseph's journey through our school community reminds us that we need to make room for Jesus in our lives, homes and communities.

Mary and Joseph are taken home for the night by a family who plays host to them reading the Christmas story together and possibly completing some of the suggested activities. On Christmas Eve the Posada box makes its way to St. Catherine's church and is placed under the Christmas tree.

A new addition to the Posada box is a Posada journal for parents and children to record what happened while they had the box- ideas are on inside cover of the journal (we have left last years in as an example of what you might want to write about.

If you would like your child to bring home the Posada box please let Mrs Platt in the school office know as soon as possible.

## PTA

Mrs Graham is meeting with Oliver Burns' mum (nursery) on Monday 9th December at 9.00am to discuss a possibility of her chairing the PTA this year. If there

is anyone who would also like to come along to the meeting please let Mrs Platt in the office know. The more the merrier!!



## Feed a Namibian Child

Revd Caroline Tracey visited our school before Easter to talk to our children about links St. Catherine's church has with two parishes in Namibia. Revd Caroline and her husband David visited Namibia at a time when the Namibian Government declared a 'State of Emergency'. It is the first drought to affect the entire country with total crop failure and cattle dying. Subsistence farmers in the two link parishes have been especially hard hit.

As many of the subsistence farmers in the link parishes have used all their stored grain from the previous year the 'Namibia Committee' from St. Catherine's church have decided to hold a fundraising project so that school children in the three schools could have one meal a day. Many of these children walk up to 8 km per day to attend school and the principals are reporting that some children are failing to turn up with others falling asleep at their desks because of empty stomachs. To feed a Namibian child one meal a day for 10 weeks costs £2.50.

**There will be a retiring collection at the carol service on Friday 20th December. Please give as much as you are able.**

## Out of School Club

Out of School club is offered to the children both before and after school. It is a chance for children to be in a relaxed and stimulating environment with staff members they are familiar with. Children can choose from different activities whilst also having nutritious foods and drinks, which are catered for any dietary requirements. Children are safe and have the opportunity to develop emotional, physical, social and intellectual opportunities.

Children will take part in

- ICT
- Arts and crafts
- Indoor and outdoor learning
- Physical activities
- Construction
- Life skills
- Baking
- Group work
- Circle time
- Opportunities to complete homework
- Dancing
- Themed activities

Hours

Breakfast – Monday to Friday during term time only 7.30am – 8.50am.

Afterschool - Monday to Friday during term time only 3.15pm- 6.00pm.

Twitter

Out of school club have their own new twitter page where you can follow what your child has been up to and keep up to date with the different activities they have been taking part in. Please follow us - @StCatherinesCE1

Cost

Morning - £5.75

After school - £11.50

All week breakfast and afterschool - £80

Please speak to the school office if you require any more information.

## Shoe Boxes

Thank you to those families who donated filled shoe boxes for International Aid Trust. A total of 45 were donated. These boxes will make a real difference to children's lives this Christmas time.

## Admissions Consultation

We are consulting on our admissions arrangements for 2020-21 academic year. Although our criteria is not changing wording has been changed to keep in line with changes to the Admissions Code.

The details can be found on our school website <https://st-catherines.bolton.sch.uk/parent-information/admission-info/>

## Forthcoming events

2 Dec	Testing week
6 Dec	Y6 to Mayor of Bolton Christmas Concert
10 Dec	Christmas dinner day and Christmas jumpers
11 Dec	Nursery and Reception nativity AM and PM
12 Dec	Year 1 and 2 nativity (AM and PM) Christmas Bingo
16 Dec	Junior Christmas show—Treasure Island Infant parties
17 Dec	Junior parties
18 Dec	Nursery parties Y4 Ice Skating
19 Dec	Infant panto in school Front Row Music Christmas concert
20 Dec	Christmas service in church led by Y5 9:30am Break for Christmas