

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
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GREGORY HUGHES ~ Headteacher

TO: ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

17th December 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians

CHRISTMAS 2024 NEWSLETTER

We have enjoyed a very successful and exciting term and festive period. In the last month, we had a special visit from our MP for Lincoln, Hamish Falconer. Miss Noor's class entered his Christmas card competition, and we are really pleased to announce that Abdullah was the runner-up and Matthew was the overall winner! The children received a special teddy bear from the House of Commons and a certificate. Matthew's design will be printed and feature on the front of Hamish's cards this year and his family have been invited to visit the House of Commons. All the children from Miss Noor's class who took part also received a certificate.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

The infants performed the Nativity play "The Magical Christmas Jigsaw" to packed audiences over the Christmas period. The children performed wonderfully, and it was a joy to see them all involved in such high-quality performances. This was no mean feat by the teachers, teaching assistants and parents who made the event so memorable. Thank you to Mr Berezin for organising the video to commemorate the occasion. We are pleased to be able to send a copy of the performance to all our key stage 1 parents. Enjoy!

The Choir have had a very busy Christmas period. They sang at St Peter and St Paul's Church raising money for Age UK alongside the Deanery Choir raising £1751. They also sang after the 9.00am Mass at SSPP to introduce the Church Christmas Fayre. They were excellent and both events were special. Many thanks to Mr Ballard for his hard work and preparation.

Many thanks for all your support and generosity for the Christmas sack appeal. It will make such a difference to families on Christmas Day.

JOINT CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE

The choir and children from St Hugh's, Our Lady of Lincoln and St Peter and Saint Paul's Secondary School combined for a special Advent Service at Our Lady's Church. The drama and music was a fitting tribute to the Christmas story. The children received many compliments for their performance. Thank you to all the staff from the three Academy schools for their excellent preparation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thank you to Deacon Kevin for facilitating our service of Adoration on two occasions this term and to the children for reading the Scripture and prayers. It was a very special time to reflect and thank Jesus for all the wonderful families, staff, governors, clergy, and community members who support our school. We are very proud of every member of St. Hugh's.

The children took part in Judaism in the last term. We welcomed Mr. Griffiths who shared his insights and experiences about his faith. The children learned about the concept of Mitzvah and the importance of helping others. Mr. Griffiths explained how he volunteers his time on Christmas Day so others can be with their families.

We spent time together on Remembrance Day remembering all those who have lost their lives in conflict. Corporal Bailey from the RAF explained the significance of wearing the poppy. Miss Slater played the last post at the end of the gathering.

The St Hugh's Larder has been established in the foyer. We have created a space where families within our school community can access the items they need. Special thanks go to Miss Webster, who gave her time during the school holidays to upcycle the shelving unit. She did a wonderful job, even matching the paint colour to the school's colour scheme.

We have added the notice: "Give what you can, or take what you need..."

Parents and families have been really generous; last month, we were able to deliver 14 boxes to the Birchwood Community Food Bank.

Year 6 and the Choir finished the term with a Christmas Liturgy. Thanks to Miss Blood and Year 6 for their preparation.

SCHOOL MASSES

This last term we celebrated mass for All Saints Day and then celebrated our Feast Day of St Hugh with a Liturgy. Many Parishioners and parents commented on how impressed they were with the reading, acting and behaviour of the children.

PTA NEWS

The Christmas Festival and the supporting events made a fantastic amount of nearly £2,000. Once again this is a phenomenal figure and many thanks go to Mrs Elvers and the entire PTA who worked so hard to make the Festival such a success. Also, a big thank you goes to parents and friends who supported the Christmas events. Well done to the Infant Choir who began the proceedings with excellent performances expertly arranged by Miss Slater and accompanied by Miss Hewerdine. Thank you to Santa for his visit and for also coming into school to meet and talk to Key stage 1.

The improvements to our prayer garden look wonderful, with sturdier foundations and extended garden beds that will thrive for years to come. Our PTA has contributed with generous funding towards the new plants. Local firm Pennells funded two cherry blossom trees. Thanks to Mrs. Hughes for her hard work in the planting, and to Mr. Berezin for the effort in preparing the beds. The garden is a special, peaceful place for all to enjoy.

The Well-being Champions have raised enough money to buy one buddy bench. The PTA have kindly offered to match this and will buy another bench for all the children.

Moving forward we hope to have an outdoor Forest area created in April with a fire pit and seating for a full class.

FILM VISITS

All classes visited the cinema in Lincoln City to watch a variety of films. The children have been able to write about their film in their English books back in the classroom.

SPORTS NEWS

The football team have been busy in a couple of tournaments.

The boys A team and the girls A team played at Sincil Bank to play in the Utilita 7 a side and Premier League Primary Stars tournaments respectively involving local Lincolnshire teams. These tournaments eventually end up at Wembley. Both teams played well winning a number

of games but were not overall winners on this occasion! Well done to all who represented the school.

We had a great day out as a school to watch England against the Republic of Ireland. Everyone enjoyed the match with England winning and gaining promotion.

NETBALL

Netball training has now finished for the winter and will resume after the February half term.

FOUNDATION UNIT INTAKE 2025

The closing date for applications for next year is the 17th January 2025. Once again the school has received a high interest for places. Parents will be notified in April if their child has been accepted. If you know of any children who are new to the area please ask the parents to contact the school as soon as possible.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

For Mass times over the Christmas period please see:

<http://www.sthughslincoln.org.uk>

<http://www.peter-paul-lincoln.org.uk>

FINALLY

Thank you all for your attendance at recent Parent Teacher meetings. Your continued interest and support are greatly appreciated. As a reminder, with regards to OFSTED, we will not receive the final report until we have fact checked a draft copy. This will be in the new January term after the holiday.

I'd like to thank you all for taking time to fill in the questionnaires which were overwhelmingly positive. Thank you also to all our Governors who took time out of their work schedule to speak with the 3 inspectors.

During the 2-day visit the children were a credit to you all and staff showed their usual professionalism. We cannot at this point announce the outcome, however we look forward to sharing the final report with you all in due course.

On behalf of Mr John O'Connor our Chair of Governors, Staff and Governors, I would like to wish you all a happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

Yours sincerely

Gregory Hughes

Gregory Hughes – Headteacher