

The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH



HEAD TEACHER Mrs Carmel Dodds **DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Miss Dominique Smith

PHONE 01604 714399 **EMAIL** office@tgs.nor.olicatschools.org

WEBSITE www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk

 @Thegoodshepherdnorthampton  @TGSNorthampton



Friday, 20th December 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have finally arrived at another end of term. What a finish we had to the performances this week. The Year 5 and 6 performance was a real celebration of 'talents'. It has been a privilege to be present in the build up across the school. From Nursery to Year 6, every child has been part of a wonderful Christmas celebration.

A huge thank you to all the staff involved and to you the parents and carers for taking time out to celebrate with us. We have had an extremely busy advent; a large group of children sang at the Advent Service and at The Mass to celebrate Our Lady Immaculate Feast Day. Our Mission Team and Minnie Vinnie's gave up an afternoon to sing and socialise with the residents of Symphony House. A lovely afternoon was had by all.

The term has flown by and we have been keeping ourselves very busy. Looking back on our social media, it has been awesome to see all the amazing things we have experienced or been involved with; a group of children from Year 5 represented the school at the Schools Eco stewards Oracy Competition. The new Junior Leadership Team was elected and spent term one reviewing books across the school and providing teachers with feedback. The new school video was launched with some superstar performances from Year 3 and 4. KS2 have been attending Mass on a weekly rotation at St Aidan's. We welcomed Deacon Jim and CARITAS to The Good Shepherd and heard all about the good work they do in our community. CAFOD also joined us and shared the global work they are part of. The Mission Team celebrated Mass in Dunstable with Bishop David and were wonderful school representatives.

Curriculum experiences have been immersive, from heart dissections in Year 6 to learning how to play cricket with a specialist coach. The introduction of new daily group reading and parent workshops in reading and maths to support this. Effective Maths was launched just after half term and the children have embraced a new way of learning. Year 5 enjoyed studying the Greeks, whilst Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Duxford. Our youngest children have blown us away by settling so quickly into school life and embracing all of the learning that has been thrown their way! Phonics groups have been making great progress across the school. We cannot wait to SPLASH our way into the new year with our temporary on-site swimming pool.

We have looked after our mental health and listened to the Lightbulb team who gave us some tools to help us.



Website

www.olicatschools.org

Strategic Executive Lead

Mr Tony Bishop

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas
More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne
Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL

Company Number: 09436283





We supported Anti-Bullying week by wearing odd socks and through our reading, explored Black History Month in October.

We have shown service to others, generating food for The McCarthy Dixon Foundation and toys of NLIVE Radio Toy appeal. Raised money for The Lightbulb Mental Health service as well as the Poppy Appeal.

We also raised vital funds for the PTA buying tickets for the disco and having a wonderful night out as well as tuck shops after school.

We have completed our year with Christmas Party Day and an amazing Pantomime from M&M Productions!

Finally, we take this opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Jones who is off to take up a new post in Dubai. We would like to thank Mrs Jones for all her hard work and wish her and her family every success in their new adventure. We know you will be taking a little bit of The Good Shepherd and sprinkling it across the globe!

Huge thanks to all the staff, the PTA, Local Academy Committee and our OLICAT Trust who have supported us along the way and to you the parents and carers for your continued support!

We wish you all a wonderful blessed Christmas and New Year!

The staff have all finished their letters to Santa and have asked for a BIG REST this Christmas.

From a very tired Headteacher and exhausted staff! But it has all been worth it! We look forward to seeing you all refreshed in the new year on Monday 6th January 2025.

God Bless,
Mrs Carmel Dodds
Headteacher

