



26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you for all your support with the Cake Sale this week. You all raised £291! A fantastic first event for the Friends of St Winifred's. An even bigger thank you to Andrea and Michelle for rallying the troops and making sure that it all came together.

After the cake sale, we did hold the Friend's annual AGM. Thank you to the parents who attended, including the new recruits! I would like to stress how important it is to have a PTA supporting the school in this way. If you were not able to make the meeting and still would like to join, please contact them on: stwinifredsfriends12@gmail.com. Also, see the attached flyer, which includes all their contact details and social media information.

Also, please find attached information about the Christmas raffle the Friends are organising, which will be drawn on the last day of term. There will be more information in coming weeks regarding donations for hampers and how to buy / sell tickets. Remember all proceeds go to the children, it is very much needed and very much appreciated.

December:

- 1st: EYs Nativity 2pm
- 2nd: EYs Nativity 10am
- 5th: Carol Concert OLOL 3:30pm
- 8th: KS1 Nativity 2pm
- 9th: KS1 Nativity 2pm
- 10th: Christmas Lunch
Christmas Jumper Day £1
- 13th: LKS2 Nativity 2pm
- 14th: LKS2 Nativity 2pm
- 16th: UKS2 Carol Service 6pm
- 17th: Whole School Mass
Class Parties
End of Term



We also had three very generous donations this week, following an appeal from the Friends to local companies. **Murray Decorators** donated a Christmas Tree for the main entrance to the school and **Reeds Rains Estate Agents** in Catford have donated one for our school hall. **Waitrose** also saw the appeal and have donated the decorations and lights for both trees! We are thrilled and cannot wait to decorate the school for Christmas. Once the trees are up, we will of course share photos of them with you all.

Safety:

Year 5 and 6 children, when requested by parents and carers, are granted permission to come to and from school by themselves. This acts as a good preparation for secondary school, when children are trusted to be more responsible. If you have a child in Year 5 and 6, please remember the main gate does not open until 8:30am. Please, check what time they leave home, so that they do not arrive to school too early. Permission is **only** given to those children in years 5 and 6, if they have younger siblings, they should not be bringing them to school. **A 10 or 11-year-old child, should not be responsible for a younger sibling, it's not safe.** Please ensure that all other children are safely escorted to the school gates.

Feedback:

We are rapidly approaching the end of term and the end of my first term as headteacher of St Winifred's. I have been reflecting on my time here so far and I would really like you to provide me with feedback to two questions.

1. What has been going well?
2. What could be even better?

I have sent you all an email with a proforma with these two questions. I would like as many of you to respond as possible. I am very eager to listen to parent/carer voices. You can email it back or if hand it in to the school office. You can even remain anonymous if you prefer. By the end of term, I hope to be able to share the responses I have had with you.



Christmas:

Please see the Christmas Dates newsletter and Performance flyers, attached to this email for all the information regarding Christmas events we have planned. Remember that you must book your tickets, if you wish to attend any of the performances. All performances dates are subject to Covid-19 guidance. Let's pray that nothing changes from now until the end of term!

Parish Carol Concert:

As I said last week, on Sunday 5th December, at 3:30pm, the Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils have been asked to perform at the Carol Concert in Our Lady of Lourdes parish. Currently we have 13 pupils who are willing to attend. In order to perform as a choir and for their voices to fill the church, we would ideally need 20. I really want to re-establish our links with the parish and would love to watch our children perform. Are there any more volunteers? Please return the permission slip if you would like your child to participate. If you are free on this Sunday afternoon, why don't you join us for this joyful event during Advent.

Mini Vinnies Advent Appeal:

The Mini Vinnies, made up of children from Years 5 and 6, have put out an Advent plea. Mini Vinnies are the junior section of the Catholic organisation of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which exists to help those in need. They want to help people in need during the cold winter months and have come up with the idea of a back to front advent calendar.

They are asking each class to create their own Advent Calendar for a good cause. Rather than opening a calendar door each day and removing the gift, they are requesting that a gift is donated instead. Each class will have a box to collect their donations. The children will collect all the items at the end of term and take them to the Lewisham Donation Hub.



The kinds of things that can be donated include unopened body moisturiser (especially emollient 50), adult and baby shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes (child and adults), perfume and after shave, deodorant (men's and women's), mouthwash, shaving foam, razors, talcum powder. Tinned tomatoes, noodles, UHT milk, pasta, rice, tinned soups, chick peas, cereal, tuna and mackerel (tins), couscous, pasta sauce, Indian sauce, lentils, coconut milk, stock cubes, crisps and treats, orange squash (and similar), flour, breakfast bars, coffee, tea.



First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Preparation 2021-22:

This year, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Lee will run their First Holy Communion programme here at St Winifred's Catholic Primary School, rather than meeting in the Church. This will take place on Wednesdays or Thursdays (depending on the number who enrol) after school. If your child would like to join the programme, kindly register your interest by contacting the school office next week. Once we know how many Holy Communicants we have, we will be in touch regarding application forms, dates and times of classes.

Reception 2022:

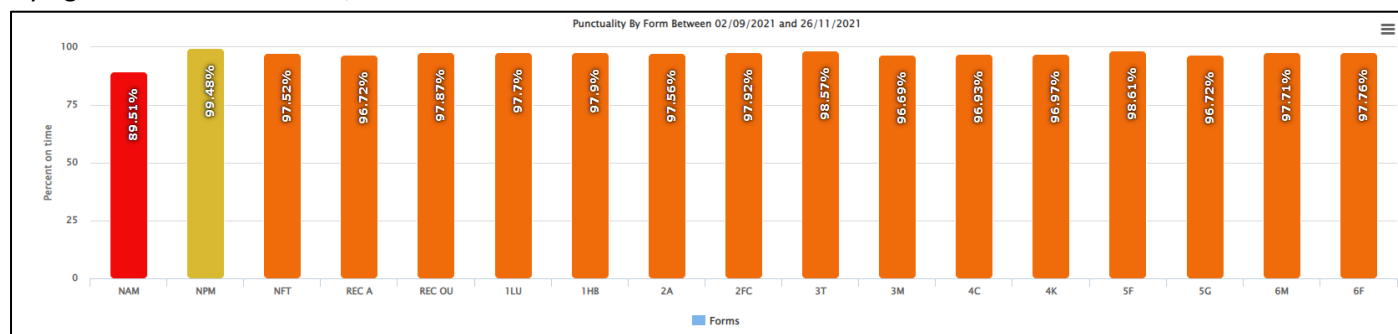
If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2022 (born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018) or know someone who does, I hope that St Winifred's is your first choice! Our open days have now begun. If you would like to book a place on one of the open days, please contact the school office. Please feel free to share this information with prospective parents you may know.

During the School Day		After School
9:15am – 10am	2pm – 2:45pm	4pm
Friday 7 th January	Thursday 2 nd December Monday 10 th January	Thursday 9 th December

Applications for Reception Class places for September 2022 can now be made on line. Please follow this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

Punctuality:

Punctuality was better this week. Classes did very well and were all above 96%, like last week. I thank all of you for trying hard to arrive on time, let's see if all classes can be above 97% next week.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 3T again!! Well done to 3T! Let's see who can win it next week!

Covid-19 Guidance

We are in the season of the common cold. Lot of us will develop coughs, which in the past we would not have been worried by. However, due to the pandemic, all new, continuous coughs need to be treated as potential Covid-19. I know that it is incredibly frustrating when a child has to be off, when you're sure it's 'just' a cold.

The guidance is very clear, the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If any one in the school develops any of these symptoms, child or adult, they are sent home and must have a PCR. Thank you for your understanding, we know it is not ideal.

Spare clothing for accidents

Thank you for bringing in your outgrown uniform, but we are very short of aged 6/7 and 8 underwear for minor 'accidents'. Also socks and tights for the wet weather 'accidents'. If you are able to donate any of these items we will be very appreciative.

Conservatoire Courses

Please see the attached brochure regarding the available music courses for children starting in the spring.

Parent App:

Please, please, please download it! We have re-sent a link to those parents who have not started using it. There are 140 app users now. Thank you to those who use it! I would like more users. If you have not downloaded the app yet, please do so. I have had really positive feedback from parents who have started using it. You are able to access the information we hold on your children. Since using the app, so many contact details have been updated. Vital information that we need, if we needed to contact you in an emergency. If you need any help with downloading it, please do not hesitate to ask us.



Social Media:

As you all know, I have created a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account for the school. If you have not started following us, it's not too late to do so! I have been sharing lots of photos of the children in school and on trips and of their displays.

If you would rather your child **not** be included in photos and videos, please return the letter to the school or send a request via the Scholar Pack app. We will then update our information and know which children not to include in our posts.



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Wednesday Word

Please see the link to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

Food Bank

Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received.

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated

Claire Gillespie