



On behalf of myself and the governors, I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment over the last term - it has certainly been a very busy one. I would also like to thank all of our families for their ongoing support and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Loving Father,

*Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.*

*May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds*

*with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.*

Amen.



Parish News

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) 2025 GROUP. St Paul's and St Finbarr's.

The First Holy Communion (FHC) preparation program 2025 commences on SATURDAY 4th January, at 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall, and on SUNDAY 5th January 9.30am, at St Finbarr's Church. This is the first of the weekly preparation classes and will continue on each successive Saturdays at St Paul's and Sundays at St Finbarr's until June 2025, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays.

The move to Sunday mornings before Mass from Saturday mornings at St Finbarr's is new in order to facilitate greater attendance. Both at St Paul's and St Finbarr's every child MUST attend each of the FHC sessions and STAY with their parent throughout. This helps parents to: better understand the program; support their child's ongoing development and meet and support other FHC parents.

FHC application forms are available from the back of both churches, or by emailing Deacon Barry barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk or Carina at carinamjarvie@aol.com or downloading a copy from the parish website <https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconciliation-first-holy-communion>

MASS SCHEDULES OVER CHRISTMAS 2024

CHRISTMAS VIGIL 24TH DECEMBER - 7PM MASS (CAROLS AT 6:30PM) ST FINBARR'S, AYLESHAM

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10.30AM MASS ST FINBARR'S

Monday 6 th January	Return to school
Tuesday 7 th January	Forest School - Y3 and Y4
Friday 10 th January	KS2 trip to the Marlowe pantomime
Tuesday 14 th January	Forest school - Y3 and Y4
Friday 17 th January	Parent Event Y6 - Are you smarter than an 11 year old? 9am parents invited to attend.
Tuesday 21 st January	Forest School - Y3 and Y4
Wednesday 22 nd January	Giraffe Class Mass 11.15 - all welcome
Friday 24 th January	Parent Event Times tables challenge - Giraffe class
Tuesday 28 th January	Forest School - Y3 and Y4
Monday 3 rd February	Whole school mass 9.30 - all welcome
Tuesday 4 th February	Forest School - Y3 and Y4
Tuesday 11 th February	Forest School - Y3 and Y4 Safer Internet Day
Friday 14 th February	End of Term 3
Monday 24 th February	INSET DAY
Tuesday 25 th February	Start of Term 4

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Sun Bear Class (Reception)

This term, Mrs Johnson and I did not need to think too much about who was our class medal winner. Even though, every Sun Bear has been wonderful, this particular Sun Bear has been quietly shining their light over the classroom and it has not gone unnoticed. We were in complete agreement that this child should be our medal winner.

There are almost too many reasons to mention but here are the main highlights:

She is always ready to learn, eager to understand and has a zest for knowledge that is quite unique for such a little Sun Bear. She listens carefully, thinks of thoughtful questions and comments and understands how important this learning is.

She is kind and gentle even when the classroom is busy and sometimes quite noisy. She will keep calm and carry on showing real resilience and determination.

She offers her help without being asked. Nothing is too much trouble for her. Tidying up is something that she will gladly do and is an expert and finding where pieces go.

If she sees someone who is sad or is not sure who to play with, she has the very mature ability to lift their spirits and bring them into a game or some fun. Everyone can rely on her, to make a good choice. Although she is kind and gentle she is also strong and brave and will stand up for what she believes in or if something is unfair, asking for help for adults when she needs to.

She has wonderful manners without being reminded. She is a complete role model to all around her and lives out the true meaning of the St Joseph's motto.

It really is our greatest pleasure today to award this very Christmassy medal to Arielle! Don't ever change Arielle, you are completely wonderful.

Mrs Handford, Mrs Johnson

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Dolphin Class – Year 1

Did you know one of the calmest animals is a sheep? They are docile, non-violent, gentle and peaceful creatures ever known on earth. They are known as timid yet loyal and curious creatures too. This could never be truer for my medal winner this term. She is a kind, caring and hard-working member of Dolphin class who always makes the right choices and sets such a good example to others as well as living out our class and school motto. I can remember back to last year when I was fortunate to spend some time in Sunbears where I first met this young lady and her group of lovely friends. I was instantly impressed by how hard she worked and the effort she put into her work back then.

Fast forward to Dolphin class, and still this young lady produces wonderful work. She is attentive, resilient and always dedicated to doing her best. She has been to see Mrs Seager-Flemming on many occasions for her amazing writing which is always beautifully presented and well written. I couldn't ask for a worthier medal winner this term as both myself and Miss Kirby were unanimous in our decision to award our wonderful little lamb...Adalind!

Mrs Austen and Mrs Kirby

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Popokotea Class - Year 2

Since starting in Year 2, you have been a beautiful ray of sunshine in our classroom. You are so positive and cheerful! Your cheeky smile and contagious laugh are always brightening up our school days!

Ella always tries her best with everything that she does whether that be her learning or building on her relationships with the people around her. I have never met such a brave young lady who can play an amazing role of the Angel Gabriel in our Nativity and sing a solo so beautifully.

Even when she faced some hard challenges, she showed her strength and carried on - proving her resilience.

I couldn't be more proud to have the opportunity to teach Ella this year and I can't wait to see what else she has to offer after already giving us so much!

She is such a kind-hearted young lady and we are so lucky to have Ella as a member of our class!

Miss Marvier and Miss Hughes

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Giraffe Class – Year 3

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach you for two terms and watch you come out of your shell and start to blossom. Ava is a dedicated learner, who demonstrates a passion for knowledge and wanting to know more. Ava always strives to do her best and takes the time to reflect on her learning. You should be proud of what you have achieved in such a short space of time! Her ability to listen to comments of support is exceptional and she always uses the feedback effectively.

Ava is a great learning partner and friend to her peers, demonstrating patience, understanding and most importantly a little sprinkling of joy and laughter! Ava is one of the first people to put up her hand to help with a job every day, every lesson – thank you!

Mrs Hunt and Mrs Chapman

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Giraffe Class – Year 4

Layla you have come back to Giraffe class with the most brilliant attitude, positive energy oozes and you are trying so much harder in all aspects of your learning. Layla you have really impressed Miss Hampton with your reading and spelling skills and she can't believe the transformation.

Your confidence is slowly growing in class and it makes us smile so much when you choose to put your hand up. Layla has always loved a job and can be relied on for all sorts of tasks – thank you for your help! Layla is a loyal friend to her peers and enjoys learning and playing with them in and outside of the classroom. We look forward to your continued positive attitude and would like to see that beautiful smile just a little more often please!

Mrs Hunt and Mrs Chapman

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Penguin Class – Year 5

Archie, your zest for new challenges within your learning certainly does not go unnoticed. Even though sometimes you find your learning challenging you are determined to achieve and you never give up. This is a wonderful attribute to have. Your dedication towards our weekly spelling test has certainly paid off – What a transformation!

Archie, you put so much effort into all your learning and it has been my pleasure to watch you grow into a more confident young man within the classroom. Your sensible nature and calming influence in playground games is a credit to you and it proves how much you are maturing. I cannot wait to watch you continue your positive attitude in the classroom and see your smile shine through when you have those many light-bulb moments.

Well done Archie, you certainly deserve this medal

Mrs Simpson and Mrs Clipstone

Class Medal Winners – Term 2

Penguin Class – Year 6

Wyatt you have shone like a star in Penguin class this term. Your amazing attitude towards your learning certainly has not gone unnoticed by the adults in class, even your classmates have wowed at your wonderful suggestions in our class learning. Your determination has demonstrated your ongoing maturity in school. Wyatt, you thrive in maths and your ability to grasp new learning is an absolute credit to you. The effort you are putting into your writing seems effortless but I know how much dedication you put in to this and all your learning.

You are becoming a confident young man and have especially blown Mrs Lloyd–Yates and myself away with your true grit and determination in your swimming lessons this term– even practising putting your head under water in the bath at home. You should be extremely proud of yourself, as this was not an easy challenge for you, but you overcame that challenge like you do every challenge that you come across.

Well done Wyatt, we are very proud of you.

Mrs Simpson and Mrs Clipstone