

THE ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

09/01/2026

Issue 173



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Our Mission Statement

'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.'

St. Catherine of Siena

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and it was lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. We hope you had a very happy Christmas break with your family and friends and that 2026 is a safe and peaceful year for you all. It was a very cold start to the new term with freezing weather conditions but we've all kept warm inside the schools. We can really notice the difference this winter in the Infant School now the roof replacements and other repair work to protect against damp is complete; the building is now completely waterproof and very warm and comfortable for the children, wherever they are working.



The Feast of the Epiphany took place on Tuesday 6th January and our Key Stage 1 pupils joined Fr. Ufayissa and parishioners to celebrate Mass at the Church. The children were fantastic ambassadors for the school community and it was lovely to hear the parishioners compliment them on their behaviour and singing during the Mass. The Junior School classes celebrated this special day when Jesus was shown to the whole world during their Celebration of The Word gatherings. They also learned how this feast day is often the start of Christmas celebrations in other parts of the world.



Class 3B Assembly



Class 3B also celebrated The Feast of the Epiphany in their lovely assembly today. This was the first class assembly the children have led since joining the Junior School and we were all very proud of how they worked together and performed so well. Through song and drama, they told us the story of the Magi, or Wise Men, who journeyed from far away to worship the Christ child and bring him their gifts. Thank you Class 3A for sharing this message that Jesus

came to be a saviour for all people—just like the words of your hymn, you are all shining lights! Thank you to parents for all their support and joining us today and a very special thank you to the staff team, Miss Rioux and Miss Douglas for all their work with Class 3B. We are especially appreciative of Miss Rioux's continued commitment to the class and ensuring they have had such a successful start to Year 3.

Pilgrims of Hope - End of Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year begun by the late Pope Francis officially ended on 6th January, The Feast of the Epiphany. The theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' reflected his wish for each one of us think about our own journey of faith and love during the Jubilee Year. Pope Francis wanted everyone to live with kindness, forgive others, and bring hope to the world, just as Jesus taught. In school we have thought about how we can bring this message alive as we helped others in our local and wider communities and how we can each grow in faith. We know that some of our families also took part in special pilgrimages to holy places such as Rome during the Jubilee year and shared these with us in school. Thank you to all the children and the support of our Parish as we celebrated the Jubilee Year and we look forward to carrying on with its message as we begin 2026.

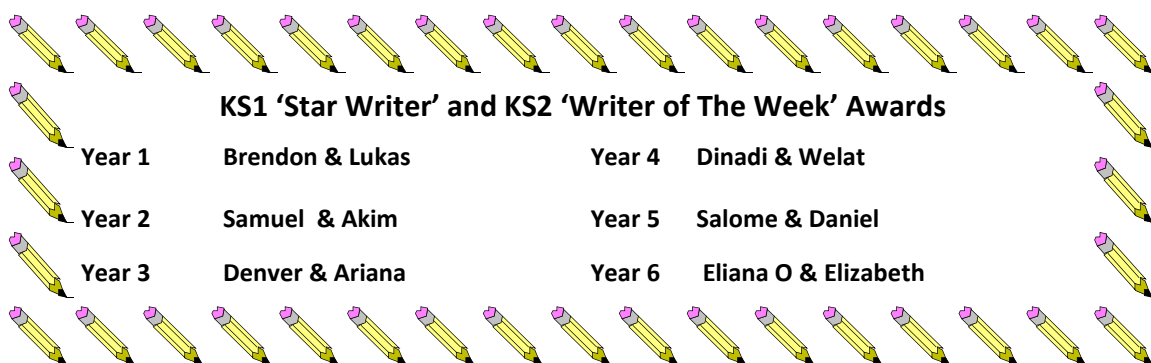


Advent Charity Fundraising Update

Our children continued to be pilgrims of hope in the way they tried to help others during Advent and we are delighted to tell you that a total of almost **£800** was raised across our school community for the Cardinal Hume Centre. This Westminster Diocese charity supports homeless young people and vulnerable families living in temporary or poor-quality accommodation. Thank you to all the children and families for your wonderful support of the Cardinal Hume Centre and we know your donations will make a real difference to so many children, young adults and families. It will be especially support the work of the charity with the homeless during these winter months.

Enjoy your weekend and best wishes for 2026.

Miss J. O'Prey



KS1 'Star Writer' and KS2 'Writer of The Week' Awards

Year 1 **Brendon & Lukas**

Year 4 **Dinadi & Welat**

Year 2 **Samuel & Akim**

Year 5 **Salome & Daniel**

Year 3 **Denver & Ariana**

Year 6 **Eliana O & Elizabeth**

STAR OF THE WEEK

Infants

N	Orlaith
RA	Denis
RB	Dominik

1A	Gloria
1B	Yat
2A	Guilia
2B	Logan

STAR OF THE WEEK

Juniors

3A	Precious
3B	Abigail
4A	Mohammed
4B	Carter

5A	Malachy
5B	Ellis
6A	Lena
6B	Amara

ATTENDANCE
Congratulations
 to 4B
 for having the
 highest
 attendance!



Class	%
R1	92
R2	88
1A	93
1B	83
2A	83
2B	95
3A	90
3B	93
4A	90
4B	100
5A	98
5B	89
6A	94
6B	98

Celebration of The Word

The Gospel for Sunday 11th January 2026

January is traditionally the month of beginnings, a time for making a new start. This Sunday we celebrate a special feast – The Baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community - to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

The Word we are celebrating this week is **New Start**.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. "It is I who need baptism from you," he said, "and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands." At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."

Adapted from The Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of the Lord, Year A

AIS and AJIS VALUES

Tolerance	6b	Thomas
Respect	3a	Esther
Commitment	6a	Zofia
Truth	4a	Ike
Excellence	5a	Anastasia
Safety	5b	Alfreda
Courage	3b	Henry
Justice	4b	Welat
Justice	N	Solomiya
	RA	Anthony
	RB	Yoosan
	1A	Matteo
	1B	Nevaeh
	2A	Elian
	2B	Elsie

Maths Superstars

Year 3	Suchet & David
Year 4	Eimear & Neve
Year 5	Joseph & Elias
Year 6	Maks & Raoul

KEY DATES

Date	What	Where/When
21/01/26	Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents	Infant School 9.00am
22/01/26	Class 2A Assembly	Infant School 9.00am
23/01/26	Year 6 Parents SATs Information Meeting	Junior School 9.00am
06/02/26	NSPCC Number Day	Infant School
Monday 9th & Wednesday 11th February - Years 1 & 2 Parent Consultation Meetings		Infant School 3.15pm onwards
11/02/26	Class 2A Assembly	Infant School 9.00am
Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th February - Years 3 to 6 Parent Consultation Meetings		Junior School 3.30pm onwards
Half Term break - Monday 16th to Friday 20th February— Schools also closed to pupils Monday 23rd February for Staff Training		

The Annunciation Schools' Safeguarding Team

Miss Odoi

Miss Martin

Mrs Stanley Ms Bourke

Miss O'Prey

Mr McCreadie

Miss Brennan

Mrs Griffin

