

Newsletter



Friday 19th December 2025

Whole School Attendance

96.6%

Welcome to St Winefride's Catholic Primary School where we 'Learn, Laugh, Listen, Live and Love' in the presence of Jesus.'

'Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16



A message from Mrs Davies to all our families....

It has continued to be another busy and positive week in school. I would like to thank all of the children who joined Mrs Bannister and I at the 'Churches Together' service in the market square on Saturday. The children sang beautifully. They received cards of thanks from Mrs Chambers. The week began with a beautiful highlight as our Key Stage Two children led the Carol Service, sharing the hope, peace, and love of Christmas through scripture, reflection, and song. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Bannister for preparing and organising the Carol Service, and to all our dedicated staff for their commitment in preparing the children to lead us such a beautiful service on Monday morning and evening. A huge thank you to parents and carers who ensured that the children returned for the evening performance. It was truly wonderful to welcome so many of you to St Winefride's church, including our Reception children and their families. The sense of community and joy was palpable throughout the service.



Our Advent assemblies have continued this week, providing a prayerful and reflective time for children, staff and governors. These moments of spiritual connection are so important in our school community and we have enjoyed coming together daily to enjoy the branches stemming from our theme **CALM** and **BRIGHT**. We have also hosted our SHINE assemblies, taking the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work of all our children this term. It has been a particular privilege to present 100% attendance awards to many of our children - we encourage everyone to keep up this fantastic effort!



Our Reception children and Little Gems were treated to a delightful Christmas performance by the B Tales, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The excitement and wonder on their faces were a joy to behold. One of the many highlights of the week was undoubtedly the Little Gems nativity performance on Wednesday. Their singing was absolutely fantastic, and it was heart-warming to see proud parents and family members enjoying the performance. The children's enthusiasm and confidence were truly remarkable. Our Christmas parties have been filled with laughter, joy, and festive spirit this week. Each class celebrated with games and treats, and enjoyed being in one another's company. The children's excitement was infectious, and it was a delight to see them enjoying these special moments together.



We were also thrilled to host a special musical performance this week. Mrs Williamson from Tafel Music, along with our talented musicians, delighted our children with a festive concert. The beautiful melodies and skilful performances captivated our children and added an extra layer of magic to our Christmas celebrations. I am very proud of the children for their confidence to perform in front of the whole school. It was a joy to hear the rest of the school join in with the children playing their instruments. We also took time to celebrate Ms Bennett's wonderful contribution to our school and wished her well in her new role with

The National Literacy Trust. We are delighted to welcome Miss Perrett, who will be teaching our children in the New Year.

As we approach the end of term, I am filled with gratitude for the continued support, hard work, and spirit of our entire school community. The joy, love, and learning that fill our school are a testament to the incredible children, staff, and families that make St Winefride's such a special place. Thank you for all of the well wishes, cards and gifts. **Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the children, staff and governors of St Winefride's.**

Forest School—Thursday 18th December 2025

During their Forest School session, Year 3 children took part in a local walk around the area to observe and identify different types of rocks used in buildings and structures. The children carefully looked at walls, pavements and houses, discussing similarities and differences in the rocks they could see.



Through observation and discussion, the children identified that the local bedrock is sandstone. They explored its characteristics, such as its grainy texture and colour, and discussed why it is commonly found in local buildings. The children also learned about slate and understood why it is often used for roofs, recognising that it is strong, waterproof and can be split into thin, flat layers.

After returning to school, the children completed the morning with a festive Forest School activity. They created Christmas tree decorations using wooden discs. The children were taught how to safely use hand saws and were given the opportunity to saw the wooden discs themselves, developing their fine motor skills, coordination and confidence with tools. They then decorated their discs, showing creativity and pride in their finished work.



End of Autumn Term SHINE Awards



Dates for your diary...

Tuesday 6th January—children return to school. School doors open at 8.45am.

Newsletter



Attendance Update

As we approach Christmas, we would like to thank families for the continued support you give in helping pupils attend school regularly. We know that life can be busy and that children may occasionally feel unwell, tired or overwhelmed, particularly during the winter months. National research shows that attendance matters across all year groups. Patterns of attendance often begin to form much earlier. Pupils who attend consistently when they join school feel more confident in lessons and they are better prepared for the curriculum as they progress through the school. Consistent absence creates gaps and these are difficult to close if absence continues. Just a reminder that if we do not receive a reason for absence, we always contact you to speak with you about the absence. This is a safeguarding measure to ensure we know that all pupils are safe. Thank you for working in partnership with us. By supporting good attendance from Year Reception onwards, you help your child to develop positive routines that will support their wellbeing and their success at St Winefride's.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise our wonderful children, throughout the school, who have achieved 100% attendance in their first term of this academic year. Well done children and families.





St Winefride's Catholic Primary

FIRST OFFENCE

1

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

2

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered

The changes to Penalty Notice Fines will come into force for those issued after **19th August 2024**

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

3

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period



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