

Welcome to our #2 edition - December 2023

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The Iona School Monthly Newsletter



A message from the Chair of College..

This term is always a busy one, especially at the end. The festivals punctuate the last stretch and it's always a time of heartwarming moments.

The children's excitement permeates the classrooms as the mood of anticipation grows.

I always find the peace and quiet of the Advent Spiral a real antidote to the modern pressures of Christmas. This focusing on the inner light carries a more appropriate meaning than any of the commercial trappings that pollute this time.

Our Advent Fayre lived up to its reputation and proved to be a wonderful community event. Once again a big thank you to everyone who helped to make it happen. It looks like it's raised something in the region of £5000.

Rob Strafford
Chair of College

A message from the Trustees...

Walking into the Advent Fayre we were struck by eye catching, colourful, hand written signs that welcomed all the visitors and directed us to all that there was to explore.

The familiar magic was there and the heart warmed by the annual traditions, all there, just where they were last year, the year before and the year before etc ; the gingerbread house, waffles, stalls, gnome gardens, wreaths, candles, crafts, the decor, singing, raffle. and a new home for the cafe."

Now, as trustees, we are so much more aware of all the effort that goes to make this magic happen, by the parents and the staff. It is a huge amount of work and there are a specific few (you know who you are) who lead the way and bring it all together. As well as the challenge of very cold temperatures, of course there are snags on the day - sometimes more than others. Your creativity and resilience to move bits of heaven and earth to address these means that nobody else notices. For these people there will be a special type of exhaustion that comes the night of the fayre, with a sense of accomplishment - what you created touched many other people in ways beyond your imagination.

Some of our offspring were at the fayre today. They were pupils of Iona and now 15 to 18 years of age. You may have seen them in groups or on their own 'hanging' around the fayre. It amazes us how young people are drawn to return, and reflect their feelings of "happiness, warmth, community". These are 'normal, rebellious, teenagers' - that is magic! A very deep thank you.

AN URGENT REQUEST FROM THE TRUSTEES

Martin Taylor has worked tirelessly for many years as trustee for Iona and one of his roles was overseeing Safeguarding at the school. Martin has been trying to step down as trustee for at least a year and so we desperately need to free Martin from his duties and find someone else for this role. This cannot be anyone who is a current parent at the school, but you all know lots of people, surely at least one of them can help?

Specific experience is not required, and training can be given.
There is a minimum of termly meetings held with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

PLEASE DO HELP US FIND SOMEONE BY ASKING EVERYONE YOU KNOW.

If any of them show any interest, please do call Louise on 07957 680448.

When, in the mirror of each human soul, the whole community finds its reflection. And when, in the community, the virtue of each one is living" – Rudolf Steiner

School Insights...

We continue to welcome new families into our community. Through the use of social media, a clear marketing campaign, advertising on local buses and monthly open mornings, we are beginning to have enquiries most days.

We are moving forward to continue to build pupil numbers and ensure Iona School thrives.

Your continued support, sharing social media posts when possible and word of mouth helps us tremendously.

Kindergarten



As always, we have spent lots of time outdoors this autumn and the children have really appreciated the autumn leaves, both in the kindergarten playground and on The Land. They have raked and swept leaf piles, made hedgehog homes, leafy beds and leafy crowns. We have also enjoyed singing several autumnal songs about leaves twirling, dancing and falling!

We celebrated several light festivals this term.

The lantern making workshop was enjoyed by all who attended, and the children proudly showed of their lanterns at the lantern walk on the 10th November. They confidently illuminated the darkness and filled the air with their songs of light. The following week the children became acquainted with the Hindu story of Divali- told as a puppet show - they particularly loved the felted 'wicked, ten headed King- Ravana' and the monkey Hanuman. The children also made a diva lamp out of clay and beads.

Kindergarten took part in their Advent (or Midwinter) Spiral on Monday 4th December. We entered the Hall to find a beautiful spiral of evergreen laid out on the floor, thanks to Class 4/5. The spiral was decorated with shells and pine cones and in the centre was a single, large candle. One by one, each child confidently walked into the spiral, lighting their own apple candle and placing it on the spiral.

thank you!

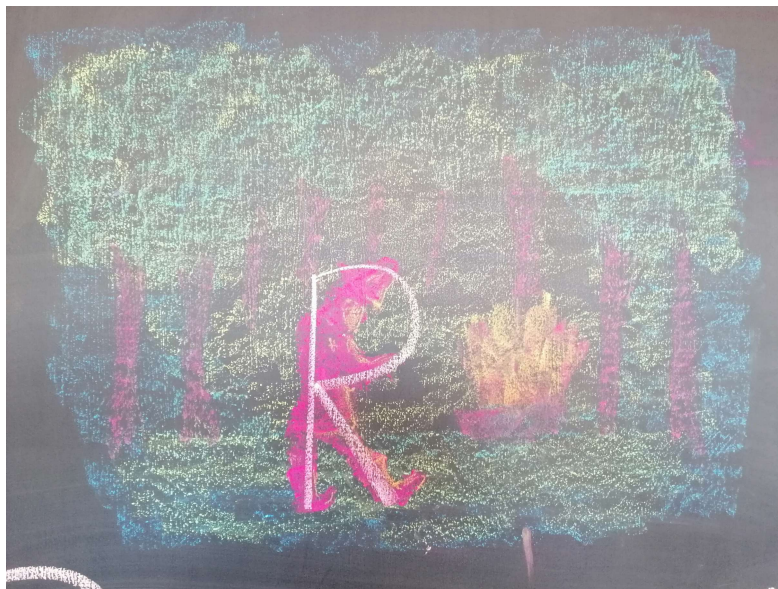
Another magical advent festivity was a 'surprise' visit from St. Nicholas. The whole school gathered in Kindergarten to sing Christmas songs when a visitor dressed in red appeared at the door. St. Nicholas told the children a Christmas story and then read out messages to each class from his Golden Book. The Kindergarten children were pleased to hear in their message that St. Nicolas had seen their beautiful playing and loved listening to their singing.

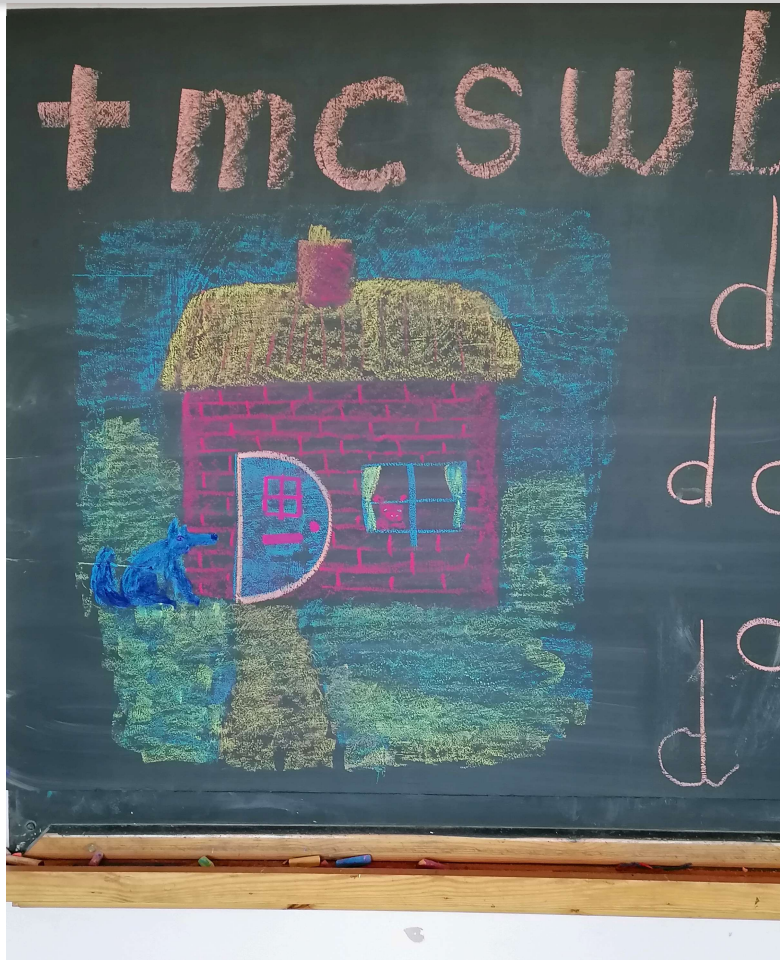
The children loved sharing their Christmas ringtime with their parents on the 14th December, thank you to all who attended this magical event.

We wish all our families a joyful, healthy and peaceful winter holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Julia, Michelle, Amy, Robin and Maya

CLASS T/1





A Message from Mr Strafford...

Class T/1 have spent the last part of this term learning and practicing some of the lower case letters.

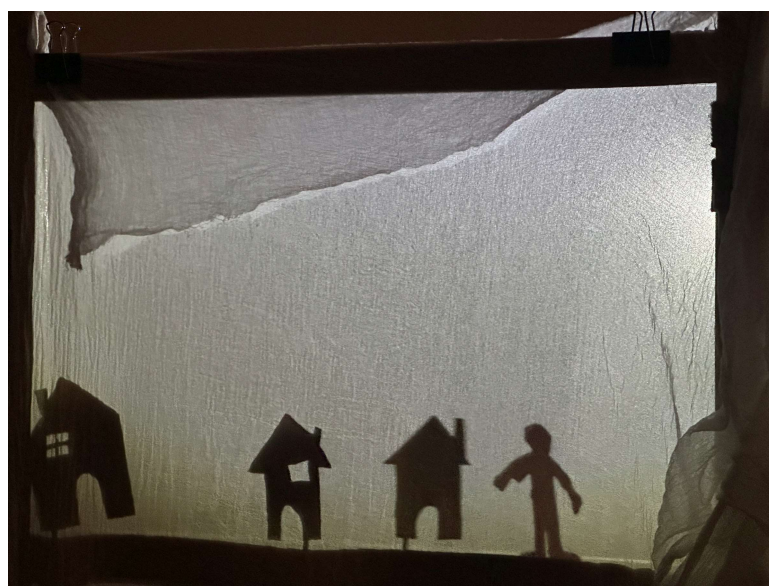
They've been walking them, drawing them on each other backs, moving them in the air and finally putting them in their books. The letters have emerged out of pictures from a story they've heard. Such as Rumpelstiltskin for the letter 'r' or the 'g' from the

They're doing really well at identifying the sounds they hear at the beginning of words and then writing them down. The letters they've done so far are all consonants, b,c,d,t,s,m,w,p,g and k.

The children are looking forward to welcoming the remaining 'Sunshine' children into the class on our first day back in January.

Mr Strafford

CLASS 2/3





A Message from Mr Early...

It has been an active and busy half-term. The children have completed many crafts requiring intricacy and concentration, such as their lanterns for Martinmas and numerous Advent Stars and Rangolis during these current light festivals. They also learned new techniques for card making and items to sell at the Advent Fayre. The final week of term saw the class create gifts to take home such as cards and handcrafted chocolates, whilst also making and enjoying some mince pies and spiced hot chocolate.

In number work we have been exploring place value and learning from the wisdom of King Generous, as he outlines how to keep larger numbers in order. The children have really embraced this and are working confidently and eagerly. We've also been playing some new number games that are developing our reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Our final main lesson explored Stories of the Saints. The children listened to the stories of the lives and deeds of a variety of Saints and had great discussions around the morals and lessons we could take from them. We also completed the alphabet in

short shadow puppet plays depicting St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio. The children had good fun creating the puppets and sharing their interpretations with the rest of the class, sat in our dark 'theatre' on the back of the stage.

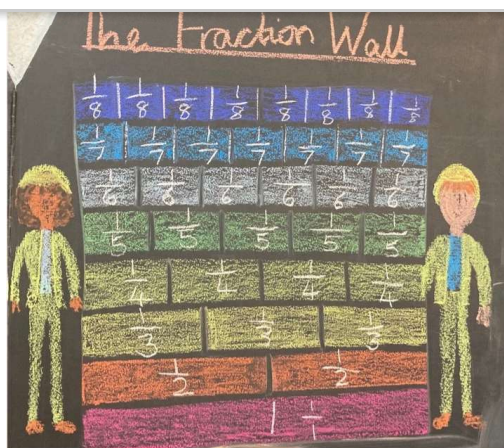
We've rarely had a consistently full class over the last few weeks, I hope the winter break allows everyone to recharge and I look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Mr Early

CLASS 4/5







A Message from Mrs Findlay...

Class 4/5 began the half term by looking at what is around us in the locality of Sneinton and a little wider afield to the surrounding area of Nottingham. We looked at the Geography and History of our local area, focusing on how, when and why things changed. We focused in on two famous local heroes, George Green and William Booth. As part of our learning, we experienced Green's Mill and the William Booth Birthplace and then prepared biographies about these individuals. Our project culminated in a debate over who was more important, George Green or William Booth. The children were able to give their points of view respectfully and sensitively using Mrs Wyer's sentence starters and gave very insightful points.

We enjoyed the lantern festival and worked hard to teach our new class members our Martinmas songs. We made complex, beautiful lanterns, showing excellent listening and teamwork skills.

Mr Maskrey taught us about the Hindu festival of Diwali and shared some of the customs which his family follow at this time of year.

Our second main lesson of the half term saw us returning to our learning about fractions. We began by looking at equivalent fractions through the story of the fraction builders who build a fraction wall. From there, we began to see the link with multiplying and dividing, multiples and factors. We then began to look at when fractions are bigger than one whole and to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers using multiple fraction walls.

We worked extremely hard on preparing our Christmas play, the Shepherds' Dreams. We spoke audibly with thoughtful expression. We tried hard to conquer our nerves and make our pacing right for the audience to follow. The class showed brilliant resilience and pulled together incredibly well to give an incredible performance.

Mrs Findlay





Each class, over the past couple of weeks, has made clay candle holders and decorated candles with coloured beeswax. Unique designs in miniature form!

Warming little beeswax balls to decorate the candles has a slow meditative quality and the children really enjoyed themselves as they made their inspiring decorations.

This complemented our learning of how other people around the world endeavour to light up the darker months and hold celebrations and festivals to honour this light.

Julie Wyer

Parent and Child Group

Our groups have a strong connection to the Kindergarten, there are currently several children who have attended the Parent & Child now in Kindergarten. They have enjoyed getting to know the teachers and assistants before moving up, helping their transition. The rhythm and songs of the groups overlap those of Kindergarten, creating a familiar environment for new children.

Nicola



Dates for the Diary

Please note the important dates that are coming up in the next half-term

Friends of Iona Meeting - Thursday 1st February

Lunar New Year - Friday 9th February

A further way to support our school is to join the Iona Club Lottery:

To be sent to **your own bank.**

Please instigate the following
STANDING ORDER which
remain in force until cancelled by
me in writing

To- Bank PLC

Account name-

Bank sort code-

Account number-

Bank address-

Please pay :

Unity Trust

Nine Brindleyplace,

Birmingham, B1 2HB

Account name Iona Club

Sort Code 60-83-01

Account number 20367749

The sum of £5 monthly
commencing on / / 202

and thereafter until further notice

Name

Address

Postcode

Signed.....

Print.....

Date.....

Application to join the 'Iona Club' (Part A)

TO: The Iona Club Treasurer

I wish to apply for one unit in the 'Iona Club' at £60 per unit per annum. I have sent Standing Order to my bank (PART B) (monthly payment of £5 per month)

I confirm that I have read the rules of the Iona Club and agree to abide by them.

Name

Signed

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Please circle as appropriate Alumni/Parent/Staff/other (please specify)

Please hand in or send **PART A** to:

The Treasurer

The Iona Club

c/o

The Iona School reception

310 Swanton Dale

Nottingham

NG3 7DN

Nottingham
NG37DN

T. (0115) 9415295
E. admin@theionaschool.org.uk
www.theionaschool.org.uk

Registered Company Number
01911659

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2005. Registered No. 3438

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NOTTINGHAM, EAST MIDLANDS**



JOIN THE IONA CLUB LOTTERY AND SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

WWW.THEIONASCHOOL.ORG.UK

REGISTERED COMPANY: NO. 01911659

REGISTERED CHARITY: NO. 516999

Why not join today? It couldn't be easier. Just complete the simple application form and return it to the address shown. Remember to indicate when you wish to start - you can join any time. As soon as your membership details have been processed you will be allocated your membership number and you will go straight into the next draw.

Your questions answered...

What is The Iona Club? The Iona Club is a private lottery organised by the friends of Iona school.

Why should I join the Iona Club? It is a great way to raise funds for the benefit of Iona school; in particular

- For a sustainable restoration of the school buildings
- To assist community supported places
- To support children who may otherwise be prevented from participating in the school activities.

It pays out cash prizes via monthly prize draws. Approximately 50% of all monies collected go into the prize fund. Prizes will be drawn 12 times a year. Two of these draws (June and December) will be super draws.

What are the prizes? The prizes are worked out as a percentage of income. The monthly standard draws will be made up of 30% of that month's income with 20% of the income being carried forward to the super draws

- 1st prize will take 15%
- 2nd prize will take 10%
- 3rd prize will take 5%

The super draw prize fund will be made up of 50% of that month's income plus up to five month's carried forward prize money as follows:

- 1st prize will take 50%
- 2nd prize will take 30%
- 3rd prize will take 20%

Remember... the greater the number of participants the bigger the prizes!

How does it work? You buy a number that is exclusive to you. Every month a prize draw takes place where the winning number is randomly selected by an electronic number generator.

How much does it cost? Each number costs £60 per year payable by standing order of £5 monthly in advance. The standing order monies must be received by the 10th day of the month of the draw to be eligible. Please do NOT send cash or cheques.

Who can join? Membership is open to all. Including: parents and grandparents of current and past students, staff and retired staff, Old Ionians and trustees. All members must be aged 18 or over and may only have one subscription.

How do I join and pay? Simply fill out the Iona Club application form and the standing order mandate. Detach the Standing Order Part B and send this part to your own Bank. Hand in or send Part A to the Treasurer Iona Club, the Iona School.

Do I need to remember my number? No. A list of numbers and members will be stored on the Iona School database.

Can I witness the prize draw? Yes.

Where and when are the prize draws? The prize draws will take place on the 28th day of each month or the first working day thereafter at Iona School. Please check the Iona School website for draw dates.

How do I know if I have won? Winners will be notified by email and the number announced on the website www.theionaschool.org.uk. Prizes will be paid by check and sent to the address supplied on your application form.

How can I cancel my Iona Club membership?

Members may leave the Iona Club at any time giving three months' notice in writing. No subscription monies will be returned and the member's draw number will continue to be drawn until the subscription expires.

Where can I see a copy of the Iona Club rules? A full set of the rules are available from the Iona School website.

Any further questions? If you have any questions, please ask a member of the lottery team or email lottery@theionaschool.org.uk



Update your own email address...

change of email separately, as the e-newsletter list is entirely separate from our school database. Please remember these **newsletters are a key component of our direct communication with school parents**. If you are no longer an active part of our school community, you can unsubscribe below.

If you would like to support the school by making a donation, please click on the below button which will take you to our pay pal account. All donations are greatly appreciated and help the school in many ways. Thank you!

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