



Shining as we learn in
Faith, Family and Friendship!

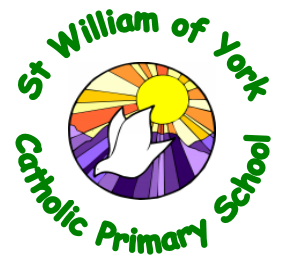


Weekly Newsletter



We approach the holy season of Advent with great joy and much to be thankful for.

"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord



PANTO

Years 1-6 will be going to the Pantomime at Bolton Albert Halls on Tuesday 12th December. This is a special Christmas treat and there will be no cost to parents.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The fair will take place this Saturday in the York Room at St William's Church. It starts at 12.30pm. Please come along if you can.

Friday 21st December

Prayer for the week...

Gods calls us to choose things that make a difference to people.

NATIVITY SERVICE

As we have no school hall, we will be having one Nativity Concert in church for Years 1 - 6 on Tuesday 19th December at 2pm. All families are welcome.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As you are aware, our staff are very careful to dismiss each child safely at the end of each day. The key stage 2 staff in particular are finding that as soon as they open the door, they are bombarded by adults rushing forward and shouting names out. Please give staff the space and time to dismiss safely - it will only ever take a couple of minutes. Thank you for your understanding.

This week's Certificate Winners

- ☺ Year 1: Zac
- ☺ Year 2: Aliza
- ☺ Year 3: George
- ☺ Year 4: Ishal
- ☺ Year 5: Madyson
- ☺ Year 6: Sahil

PARKING

Now we are using different entry and exit gates, the parking issue appears to have moved to Settle Street. Cars are mounting the pavements and opening car doors into pedestrians. We all know how dangerous and inconsiderate this is. Please can we all commit to arriving just a few minutes earlier and parking in a safe and considerate manner so that we can keep our school community safe.

TEXT MESSAGES

Please remember that our text messaging service is a one way system. If you need to contact school, please telephone the school office. Thank you!

Dates for your Diary

2nd December	Parish Christmas Fair
4-5th December	Year 6 Bikeability
12th December	Years 1 to 6 Pantomime
14th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
14th December	EYFS Nativity Play
19th December	Whole School Carol Concert
21st December	School closes for Christmas at 1:30pm



St William of York RC head on challenges caused by RAAC

29th November

EDUCATION

BOLTON



By Joe Harrigan

Chief Reporter

[@JoeLTHarrigan](#)

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7 Comments

The headteacher of a primary school affected by the RAAC crisis has spoken about the challenges she faces as children continue to be taught in temporary and 'propped up classrooms'.

St William of York RC Primary, which is on track to be one of Bolton's outstanding schools, was one of a number of schools in the borough to be affected by the material.

The material was used in a number of buildings in the second half of the 20th century and it came to the attention of the authorities after an incident at a primary school in Gravesend, Kent, in 2018.

Pupils at St William of York RC Primary School are also without a hall and most of its playground until repair funding is granted.

The school, which has been praised by Ofsted inspectors as worthy of being classed as "outstanding" if an inspection had been held this year, is currently safe for children but has had to deal with major disruption until full repair funding is granted.

Headteacher Clare Lightbown said: "We are continuing to navigate this difficult situation with our school building as best we can.

"Having no school hall certainly brings its challenges and has caused huge inconvenience to our school community.

"All our pupils are now being taught on our school site, albeit in propped classrooms or temporary accommodation and we are awaiting the completion of an extension to our playgrounds."

St William of York was first identified as containing potentially dangerous 'RAAC' concrete just before the start of the school year along with four other schools in **Bolton**.

They were amongst more than 200 all over the country.

Since then, scaffolding and support beams have been put in place across the school building on Nugent Road.

But a report submitted to the Department for Education still needs to be signed off by education secretary Gillian Keegan until a tendering process can start to get the necessary work underway.

Mrs Lightbown said: "We are looking forward to confirmation of funding, as promised, from the DFE so that work can begin on removing the RAAC from our roof.

"I am very grateful to our school community for their patience and understanding at this challenging time and for local leisure facilities for providing space for us to deliver PE."

Bolton South East MP Yasmin Qureshi has now visited the site and has praised **Mrs Lightbown** and her team for their handling of the **situation**.

But she says she has written to the secretary of state calling on her to fully fund the **repairs** at St William of York as soon as possible.

Ms Qureshi said: "The work that Mrs Lightbown and the whole team have done to keep the school open has been monumental.

"To ensure they cover the whole curriculum every day is a huge feat and deserving of great praise in such difficult circumstances.

ALSO READ: More Bolton schools identified as having type of potentially dangerous concrete

ALSO READ: More Bolton schools added to list of those affected by RAAC

ALSO READ: School where children flourish a step away from being outstanding

"I have written to the Education Secretary to tell her the government now needs to match the dedication of the school with the funding they need and commit to allow the work to go ahead in full so that the school can get back to normal."