



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 7th December 2018

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*Happy are those who hear the word of God
and keep it' Luke 11:28*



Dear Parent/Carer,



This week we entered into our Second week of Advent and celebrated with a service at School.

Our second purple candle symbolises 'Peace' Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. We celebrate God's love and look forward to the special time of Christmas together.

School Family Mass – 9.12.18 at 9.00 am

This Sunday is our School Family Mass at 9.00 am at St. Mary's, you are warmly welcome to join us. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the school hall followed by the Christmas raffle.

Advent Service, Christmas Light Switch on and Bingo - 3.12.18

On Monday 3rd of December we held our Service at St. Mary's Church followed by the switch on. Firstly may we apologise if we upset anyone, an error meant we started at 4.00 pm instead of 4.15pm. I hope this did not take away from what was a lovely School and Parish event.

Our switch on was then followed by refreshments and a fun Bingo Evening which was really well attended! May I thank the Parish council for providing drinks and mince pies and you our families for your very generous donations of chocolate for the Bingo.

I must also thank the Friends of St. Mary's – families and Staff for all their help from shopping, wrapping presents to helping out on the night!! Without such support these event would not be possible and we raised a fantastic total, all of which will go back into school for the good of ALL our pupils!

"It was really good at the Bingo. It was really surprising when I won. My Dad shared the prize and it was really delicious!!" Dane Lewis, Class 2

“An enormous thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bingo. The event was very well supported and enjoyed by all. Loads of bingo and raffle prizes and all very exciting. We raised over £500 for our children in school, this is a fantastic result. Please keep up your support and help, it makes such a difference. Thank you from FOSM. Chris Abram, Secretary FOSM

Advent Service at St. Anthony’s School - 4.12.18

On Tuesday a group of pupils from classes 3 and 4 represented us alongside other Catholic Schools at the annual Advent Service at St. Anthony’s Church.

“ On Tuesday night we went to the Advent Service and I enjoyed it a lot . It made me feel a bit nervous standing up to read but it was also really fun!” Christopher Holland – Bass, Class 4

“I enjoyed bringing the artwork up to the front of the Altar. I liked singing the Hymns”

Rachel Kennedy, Class 3

Buddy Squad

The School Council are looking to select our Buddy Squad to be in place after Christmas. If your child would like to be a Member of the Buddy Squad they need to write a brief letter saying why they think they would be a good Buddy and return this no later than Thursday 13th December. We are looking for kind, caring members of our school that enjoy playing with and helping others. Letters can be handed into any School Councillor and will be judged, then announced in Fridays Celebration Assembly.

Monies and Reply slips

Could we ask for your support when returning reply slips and monies to the School Office. **All slips and monies must be in an envelope labelled with your child(rens) name and class** and should indicate what the money/ reply is for. As you will appreciate with lots of events such as Pantomimes, Discos and Christmas Lunches etc. many replies and monies come into the office and if not labelled it can be very difficult to ensure all monies are correctly allocated. Your support is appreciated.

Bethlehem is Buzzing – Class 1 and 2 Nativity

Our Key Stage 1 Nativity “Bethlehem is Buzzing” takes place on Thursday 13th of December and tickets have been on sale from the Office. They are priced at £1.00 for adults and 50p for children. For health and Safety reasons tickets are sold on a first come first served basis so come along early to avoid disappointment. Please note **WE HAVE NO MORE EVENING TICKETS AVAILABLE.**

Due to the GDPR regulations and consents families cannot take video recordings/ photographs of all children. Individual opportunities for photographs will be provided at the end of the performance. All the monies raised will go back to the children.

Could we remind families that we CANNOT park at the Smiths Arms during this event.

Packed Lunches

We ask for your continued support in ensuring St. Mary's School is a healthy School, helping our children to make healthy lifelong choices. We promote fitness through our numerous clubs, coaches and activities as well as encouraging healthy food choices.

For those choosing to have packed lunch we ask that these reflect our School policy. Children may not bring fizzy drinks into school and we ask that lunches are balanced – healthy with an occasional treat. We will encourage children to make the right choices. Lunches with chocolate, sweets and high sugar items not only cause damage such as tooth decay but do not provide the children with the energy they need for the school day. Could we ask that all children bring a drink. Our School Nurses provide a leaflet on healthy choices which we are happy to share with you . This has been sent home in addition to our newsletter.

Supervision on the Yard

Just a reminder that Staff are always available on the School Yard from 8.45 am each day. Before that time School staff do not provide supervision and pupils are under the care and responsibility of their own parents/carers. School staff are not responsible for any accidents/incidents prior to 8.45 am.

At the end of the school day, staff members will bring pupils out and see that they are collected by their parent/ carer or named adult. We do remind all adults that, for Safety reasons, pupils must be collected from inside the School Grounds and pupils will not be allowed to leave the school gates to meet family members. As you will appreciate we are close to a busy road and this is a very busy time of day. This is to ensure the safety and well being of all our pupils which is of paramount importance and we thank you for your continued support.

On many occasions families choose to stay on the School grounds after school has closed, from 3.15 pm. After this time pupils are the responsibility of their own parents/ carers.

Big School Adventures – Every Thursday

This is a free session for pre-school children aged 3 and above and is an invaluable opportunity for children to come along and experience school life. It has been very successful and has really grown over the last few years. It has had a very positive impact on the pupils who have joined reception class enabling a very smooth transition into school. **Sessions are now taking place every Thursday from 1.15 pm.** Please ask if you need any further information.

Christmas Food Market – Coming Soon!! – 20.12.18

This holiday we are running a new initiative called “ **Holiday Markets**”. Lots of Schools are taking up this fantastic initiative with 50% of families sharing the market and it has made a big impact on their holiday budgets.

Holiday Markets take place before each school holiday and are open to ALL families. Families can choose as much or a little as they want!! We will have a ‘shop’ set up in our School library.

You can pick up a great variety of foods such as yogurts, fruit, Baby Bell cheeses etc. and you simply “ **PAY AS YOU FEEL**” . There is no fixed cost/ charge, simply a donation as you see fit. You do not hand cash over to an adult, simply put whatever you feel into a donations bucket.

All you need to do is bring along a carrier bag and come and shop on **Thursday 20th of December at 2.45 pm!!**

Dates For Your Diary

- Every Friday 2.45 p.m. - Celebration Assembly, everyone welcome
- 9th December 2018 - Family Mass 9.00 a.m.
- 13th December 2018 - Nativity 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.
- 14th December 2018 - Pantomime
- 14th December 2018 - Christmas Disco
- 17th December 2018 - Film Night
- 19th December 2018 - Christmas Lunch
- 20th December 2018 - School closes for Christmas

Celebrations Award

	Achievement Award Winner	'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively
Class 1	Felicity Pye	Edie Robinson
Class 2	Isla Kilshaw	Chloe Moore
Class 3	Hannah Griffiths	Calvin Maduka
Class 4	Ava Harkins	Farrell Carrig
	Welfare - Lunch Time Award	
	Key Stage One	Key Stage Two
	James Picking	Daniel Cornall

At St. Mary's School we -

"Live our lives as Jesus taught us,
Work hard together to achieve our best,
Respect each other and the world around us,
Have fun and enjoy learning!"