



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 6th December 2019



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

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mrs Charnley's Message

What a treat we had on Monday evening. Our Advent Service was so moving and really did challenge us to think about the simple things we can do to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. To think that some of our youngest children led us in worship was amazing and reflects the wonderful work staff do. I hear the bingo was great fun and how lovely to spend time together as a school and parish family. Thank you everyone for making such memorable evening happen. I am looking forward to next week and the Pantomime – make sure you practice your 'He's behind you!' and 'Oh no you don't' ready. Have a lovely weekend together as we get closer to Christmas.

Advent Service, Christmas Light Switch on and Bingo

On Monday 2nd December we held our Service at St. Mary's Church followed by the Christmas Tree Lights switch on.

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 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 events 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!

Christingle – Sunday 1st December

It was so lovely to see so many children on Sunday, the first day of Advent. Thank you for coming, the Christingles you made were fantastic and the lit candles looked so lovely at the front of church. Below is a link to the Parish website with photographs from Sunday. We would love you to join us around the crib during this special season, please check out the Mass times on the website. *Best wishes from all at St Mary's church.*

<https://www.standrewscottam.org.uk/christingle-at-st-marys/>

Advent Service at St. Anthony's Church – 4th December

On Wednesday a group of pupils from Classes 3 & 4 represented us alongside other Catholic Schools at the annual Advent Service at St. Anthony's Church.

"On Wednesday night we went to St. Anthony's to attend an Advent Service. I had a reading and read it at the front of the Church". Hannah

After School Club Activities for December

Listed below are some of the exciting activities planned for After School Club in the run up to Christmas. If you wish to book your child in on any of these days, please ring the office.

| Week Commencing | <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9/12/19 | Making Christmas decorations | Computer & iPad games | Making Christmas biscuits | Making Christmas Tree decorations | Making Christmas gift tags |
| 16/12/19 | Film Night | Party games | Party games | | |

Class 4 Residential Trip

Last week Years 5 and 6 went on their residential trip to Hothersall Lodge. Over the three days, the children all look part in a variety of different activities such as shelter building, camp fire making, indoor climbing, caving, zip wire, canoeing, alien hunting, orienteering and the hardest of all 'The Team Challenge in the Gorge!'

We enjoyed evenings in the pavilion playing table tennis, table football, board games, reading and playing cards. Mrs Shoulder even found time to read the children a spine tingling bedtime story!

The children embraced each activity, they worked hard together and brought out the very best in each other. The staff at Hothersall Lodge were impressed by their behaviour, attitude and willingness to have a go!

"One of the team challenges was to climb a very high tree. I achieved something I never thought I'd do. I got to the top because I was supported by the rest of my team. Without them I wouldn't have managed it" – Molly

"I liked the gorge the best because we got really muddy. The challenges we had to do were very hard but we did it!" –Isobel

“We loved the canoeing best. We had to listen to each other to win the races” – Calvin and Samuel



“Prickly Hay” – Class 1 and 2 Nativity

Our Key Stage 1 Nativity “Prickly Hay” takes place on Tuesday 10th December and tickets have been on sale from the Office, they are priced at £1.00 for adults and 50p for children.

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. Please can we remind you not to park on the Smiths Arms car park at both these performances.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

For those families who are hoping to support their children in making their First Holy Communion application forms are available from Church. First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 17th May, with 10th May as a possible second date, depending on numbers.

Preparation will take place on a Thursday evening 6.15 – 7.30 p.m. each week at St Andrew’s Cottam. We would like to begin with a meeting for parents and carers, on Thursday 9th January at 6:15pm in the Haydock Room, Cottam to explain the programme, complete any paperwork, and answer any initial questions.

Confirmation Mass Bishop Paul will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Andrew's Cottam on Thursday 18th June 2020 at 6.30 p.m. Details of the preparation programme & application forms are now available at the back of church.

Big School Adventures – Thursdays @ 1.15 p.m.



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. It has had a very positive impact on the pupils who have joined reception class enabling a very smooth transition into school. Please ask if you need any further information.

Dates to remember

Monday 9th December – Pantomime

Tuesday 10th December – KS1 Nativity 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m.

Monday 16th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December – School closes at 3.15 p.m.

Every Friday 2.45 p.m. Celebration Assembly -everyone welcome

Celebrations Awards

| | Achievement Award Winner | 'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, think creatively |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Class 1 | Thomas Yates | Edie Robinson |
| Class 2 | Agatha Holmes | Dante Lewis |
| Class 3 | Isla Kilshaw | Alfie Shaw |
| Class 4 | Samuel Brown | Alex McKeever |
| | Welfare – Lunch Time Award | |
| | Key Stage One | Key Stage Two |
| | James Picking | Millie Yates |

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!”

