



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Brogden



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

Dear Parent/Carer,



This Sunday marks the First Sunday of Advent as we enter this special period and prepare for Christmas. In a year that has been exceptional, unprecedented and challenging, Christmas brings hope for many of us as we hope to be able to have this special time together with our families. The first Advent candle is purple and symbolises HOPE which is particularly significant this year.

As we cannot light our candles together in our usual celebration assemblies we will share this special tradition in school as part of our virtual assembly.

Each week one of our 4 classes will offer a prayer and this week Class 2 share a prayer with us ;

*"Dear Jesus, I pray to you today for your love  
at this special time in our world, Advent.  
Help our world to come together on Christmas day.  
As we light our purple candle Lord,  
we will remember you.  
We light the first candle "HOPE".  
We hope people will be kind to each other.  
Amen"*

## **Safety Information – Tier 3**

As you will be aware following Thursdays announcements, after the period of National Restrictions we will enter a Tier System and Preston will enter Tier 3. The infection rates remain high and we MUST continue to work hard as a school community to keep each other safe. The safety and wellbeing of the pupils, staff and families continues to be my top priority.

Please read the guidance below so we can continue to work in partnership. It is only by adhering to guidance and following rules that we will halt the spread of the virus and continue to be able to keep school open. We all have to work together to make this possible.

**Please continue to maintain Social Distance and refrain from gathering at drop off and collection times.**

<https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/2915/FAQ-on-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-can-t-do-in-Preston>

Further useful guidance are shared in the links below:

### **Social Bubbles**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

### **Car sharing**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

## **FOSM – Virtual Christmas Raffle**

Just a reminder that our Christmas Virtual Raffle is open. Tickets are £1.00 each and you will be sent a 'number' rather than receiving a ticket. Full details can be found on our previous newsletter. Please send monies in an envelope marked VIRTUAL Raffle with your child's name, class and number of tickets you require.

## **Christmas Cards - St. Mary's Alternative**

As you will be aware we have worked hard to reduce any contact between home and school as part of our Risk Assessment in order to keep everyone safe. Measures already in place include no schools bags, online newsletters, Virtual raffles to name just a few.

Typically in previous years pupils have shared Christmas cards with both their class and to staff and other pupils. As you will appreciate logistically this would be very difficult and would require periods of quarantine for the cards, crossing of Bubbles for delivery etc. To this end, this year instead of sending school Christmas cards we will hold a charity collection in each 'Bubble' and invite you to contribute whatever you may typically have spent buying cards e.g. £1.00. The pupils themselves can then vote how they would like to use this ..for example buying a CAFOD world gift, or donating to their preferred charity. Once again thank you for helping to keep us all safe.

## **Christmas Singing**

The restrictions and guidelines we have in place will mean we will be unable to offer our usual Nativity performed by our Key Stage 1 pupils (Classes 1 and 2). I appreciate this is upsetting as this is a special part of school life and particularly upsetting for those for whom this would have been their first school Nativity. Inevitably we have to make some hard decisions in the current climate but these are always driven by Health & Safety.

So that we can still celebrate and try to spread a little Christmas cheer to our families, Key Stage 1 will be singing a few special songs for you within their Bubbles. To ensure we adhere to guidance this will take place outside. ....Weather permitting!

We will limit the number of audience members during each session and so ask for one member of the family only. Viewing positions will of course be arranged to adhere to social distancing to ensure pupils, staff and families can enjoy these sessions safely. We have also had to consider timings to ensure we do not cross Bubbles and / or cause gatherings.

Whilst I realise this is not perhaps as you would have hoped, we hope you appreciate the planning involved and support us with our alternative offering.

Our Plan.....

Class 1 – Session 1 (Max 12 places) 17.12.20 – 9.15 am  
Session 2 (Max 12 places) 18.12.20 – 9.15 am

Class 2 – Session 1 (Max 12 places) 10.12.20 at 9.15 am  
Session 2 (Max 12 places) 11.12.20 at 9.15 am

Children are welcome to bring in 'Christmas clothes' such as Christmas Jumper, Santa hat, tinsel etc. to wear for the mini performance should they wish to do so.

If you would like to book a place to come along and watch please call school on 01772 729881. Thank you for your continued support.

## **Parent App "Seesaw"- Class 2 Trial**

As we aren't able to communicate in the usual way and share learning as perhaps we have done before such as through 'Wonderful Work Weeks' or Assemblies we will be trialling an App "*Seesaw*" with Class 2. This will enable us to see how it works and take feedback before hopefully offering this to the whole school.

The purpose of this is to give you an insight into your child's learning. It may be simply a shared photograph or a mini blurb of what pupils have been up to.

It WILL NOT be a means of communicating with staff and is not to be used for this purpose. Staff will not respond to questions or comments raised via the app but are, as ever, available via telephone and /or email.

We would ask that it is treated and celebrated as a way for you to share your child's learning journey and ask that families respect confidentiality and are reminded of GDPR.

As class 2 will trial the app Mrs. Sullivan will send information home and invite you to sign up. This is a free app and designed to be used on your phone. Obviously Class Photographs may be shared and as such will have other pupils as well as your own child on. Parents are once more reminded to treat these images appropriately.

If you have not already done so please contact [Sullivan@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:Sullivan@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk) to share consent.

Please email simply stating either that you wish for your child to be included or you do not wish for your child to be included.

**I will share additional information following our trial in due course. I hope you really enjoy this opportunity.**

### **Friend's of St. Mary's – FOSM - *Mission St Mary's.***

*Mission St Mary's is back from the 23/11/20 – 14/12/20 and once again we want to help as many families as we can. This year we are asking for new or unused gifts for both boys and girls aged 4-12. Donations can be left in the foyer of school or the blue box in the bike shed around the back. In these difficult times any donations make a huge difference to someone's Christmas. As with the food parcels if you do need any extra support please contact school on 01772 729881 or email [head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk).*

*Thankyou as ever for all your support. Stay safe. Your FOSM team.*

### **Admissions September 2020**

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2021? Or do you know someone who has?

The application for school places is now open and can be found on the Lancashire County Council Website

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place>

Choosing the right school for your child is of great importance and we understand the value of finding the right environment for your child. As you would expect, safety is of paramount importance to us and to this end we are not able to hold our traditional 'Open Evening'.

Why not check out or share our Virtual Tour on the school Homepage.  
<https://www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk>

## **Diary Dates:**

29.11.20 – First Sunday of Advent

14, 15, 16.12.20 – Bikeability Sessions Class 4

14.12.20 – Class 1 – Disco Party – Class 1 ONLY wear Party clothes

15.12.20- Class 2 – Disco Party – Class 2 ONLY Wear Party clothes

16.12.20 – Class 3 – Disco Party - Class 3 ONLY Wear Party clothes

17.12.20- WHOLE school Christmas Jumper Day (£1) and Christmas Dinner

- Hopefully followed by a '*Socially distanced*' wave and gift from a Special Visitor!!

18.12.20 – Class 4 – Disco Party - Class 4 ONLY Wear Party clothes

**\*\*\*\* The Discos are FULLY funded by FOSM so we ask for a £1.00 contribution from wearing party clothes to help towards these costs \*\*\*\***

18.12.20 – School Closes for Christmas

	<b><u>E.A.T Award</u></b> <b><u>Explore, Be Active and Think creatively</u></b>	<b><u>Achievement Award</u></b>
Class 1	Max Tidmarsh	Louisa Nelson
Class 2	Leonidas Koutsokostas	Thomas Yates
Class 3	Rowan Hawkins	Elliott Capper
Class 4	Olivia Halliday	Alex McKeever

*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!"*

