



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

**Newsletter – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Tel: 01772 729881**

**[www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)**

**E-mail [head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)**

Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Brogden

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

Once more we reach the end of an action packed week in school in which we have enjoyed a wonderful range of activities!

We have had an author visit and workshops across school even welcoming our Big School Adventures children for their very own reading. Class 1 have been willow weaving, busily working with our own willow and developing their Forest School skills. Class 2 have reflected on Florence Nightingale, Class 3 have used the skills of Mr. C and our author Rachel to develop their writing skills and class 4 have taken part in Bikeability- braving the elements!



This Sunday marks the First Sunday of Advent as we enter this special period and prepare for Christmas. As we continue to move through times, which are ever changing, and we still are so affected by Coronavirus in many ways – some feel anxious, some unwell, some lonely and isolated and we bring all of these feelings forward in our prayer.

We are reminded of the need to work closely with one another, treat each other with kindness and have hope. Christmas time brings hope for many as we look forward to special time together with our families. The first Advent candle is purple and symbolises HOPE.

As we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath in our Celebration Assembly we looked forward with HOPE to Christmas. We talked as a school about why the Advent wreath is a circle. Why is this similar to a wedding ring? Which order do we light the candles in? What does the light remind us of... See what your child can remember?

Each week one of our four classes will offer a prayer and this week. Class 3 shares this prayer with us this week:

*As we enter the season of Advent, we light our first candle. It is the candle of hope. We pray that the people in need will be filled with hope in this special time.*

Finney Griffiths, Class 3

Not everyone will celebrate Christmas for many different reasons and, for some, it can be a difficult time too. As I worked in Class 4 this week we reflected upon those in nursing homes and researched the 'Cards for Kindness Campaign'. In previous years our pupils have sung within nursing homes and this has certainly spread a little cheer. As we are unable to do this for all, we would like to create a card for someone in a nursing home to bring a smile to their faces. We remember "Whatsoever you do for the least of my brother and sister, that you do unto me"

The card simply needs to say something like ...

" Dear Friend, I am thinking of you this Christmas. From ..... xxx"

We also ask you to put a little message/thought in side which will prompt a memory in the elderly person and hopefully bring a smile to their face. The idea being it brings back their own special memories

It may be a sentence such as: My favourite memory/time is when we all open stockings on our beds? My favourite is when we go for our Christmas eve walk.... etc.

**If you would like to send in a Christmas card we will forward these on to our local nursing homes . Please send in by 3rd December 2021**

Some further information can be found below.

### **Cards for Kindness launches as Christmas countdown continues.**

Loneliness is a growing problem among older people, and in care homes it can be a particularly difficult issue to resolve. Figures from Age UK show that 200,000 older people have not had a conversation with friends or family for a month, and 60% of people in care homes get no visitors at all.

A heart-warming winter campaign encouraging people to send Christmas cards to residents in local care homes launches on Wednesday 1 December. **Cards for Kindness**, now in its fourth year, aims to tackle loneliness and isolation in care homes across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

The theme for this year's scheme is "What warms your heart this winter?" and people are being asked to include examples of what makes them happy alongside their festive greetings. This could

be anything from pulling on a favourite Christmas jumper or eating a mince pie, to watching your favourite movie or snuggling up with the dog on the sofa on a rainy winter afternoon.

The idea is that opening the Christmas card helps to start conversations and bring back happy memories. Research shows that these conversations can have many benefits and reduce loneliness, particularly for people living with dementia.

There are more than 13,600 people in care homes across Lancashire, South Cumbria, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and reducing loneliness is a crucial part of improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

It's always lovely to receive a card through the post and this often sparks conversation and encourages residents to talk to each other. Research shows this has many health benefits, especially for people living with dementia. This is even more prominent amid the coronavirus pandemic as visiting is restricted.

## **FOSM**

Please see below some key information from our FOSM group. A booking form for the Funtastic Five Days of Christmas will follow!

22.11.21 – FOSM virtual Christmas Raffle – Tickets on sale until 15.12.21. The raffle will be drawn at 12 noon.

29.11.21 – Bring a 'Bric-a-Brac' item - such as a toy (in good working order), a book, a gift set etc. and wear own clothes

3.12.21 – Children's Christmas Market in our School Hall – Each child may bring a maximum of £5.00 to spend on the 'Bric- a Brac' and Cake Stall. \* Pupil only event

w/c 13.12.21 - 17.12.21 – The Funtastic Five Days of Christmas!!

You could either choose to select only the items you wish to join in with or pay £15 for a Funtastic Five Days of Christmas pass and get a special souvenir stamp card!!

13.12.21 – Trip to the Pantomime – Lowther Pavillion to see Sleeping Beauty. £10 per pupil with the WHOLE cost of transport is kindly funded by the FOSM

14.12.21 –KS1 Party day and Disco 3.15 -4.15 pm      KS2- Colouring Competition

15.12.21 – KS2 Party day and Disco 3.15 -4.15 pm      KS1- Colouring Competition

16.12.21 – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

17.12.21 – Christmas Accessory Day. Uniform and either a Christmas hat or head band and hopefully, if his Reindeers are free, Father Christmas will visit

## **St. Mary's School Virtual raffle**

St. Mary's Virtual Christmas Raffle – Tickets are now on sale!!

Each ticket is £1.00 and you will receive a text with your raffle number NOT a physical raffle ticket. All numbers and information will be entered into a spreadsheet.

We have some FANTASTIC prizes including – An afternoon tea for two, Krav taster session, After School Club passes, a one hour house clean, giant craft box - just to name just a few!!!!

Remember you have to be in it to win it.

Please send monies in an envelope marked VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE indicating your child's name, class and number of tickets required or on the sponsor style letter sent home.

Thank you in anticipation for your support!

## **NEW..... Mindful Moment !**



As we have had a difficult period of time throughout the pandemic, we have often talked about the importance of our wellbeing and just as it is important to ensure our bodies are healthy, we must ensure our mind is too. So, each week we will share a Mindful Moment for families, pupils and staff to enjoy!! Feel free to share pictures on See Saw!!

Our busy lives mean sometimes we rush and do not notice the simplest things – such as food! We may rush and ‘shove’ in not always taking the time to appreciate the meals.

Try to reflect upon the food- where did it come from? How was it produced? – Take the time to really notice the smells, tastes and textures!! Relax and enjoy!!

## **Big School Adventures**

Big School Adventures is up and running. To ensure we are being as sensible as possible with numbers we ask that places are pre-booked on a weekly basis.

## **Uniform**

To help make things easier as we move to our new uniform (required from September 2022) we shared that we would have a transition period from January 2022. Pupils who are growing out of uniform items, or those who simply wish to move to our new uniform are able to do this from January 2022.

Please do remember should you require any support or advice please just ask a staff member and/or return either of the slips we have issued. We are here to help and are already working with families so do get in touch.

The uniform letters already issued with the attached slips are also available on our website.

Should you wish to try on or purchase any new items Mr. Kumar from Bang Bang will attend school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of December and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December and will bring his mobile shop from 2.45 -3.45. As promised, once further price lists from our other suppliers are available, they will be shared and meetings are now scheduled for next week.

We will make this a regular event too so you are able to shop easily and/or make payment plans.

We hope to also have our Swap Shop set up soon too and items for this have already been ordered. Thank you as ever for your ongoing support.

## **Dates for your diary:**

Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wed. 15.12.21 – Virtual Christmas Raffle – Tickets on Sale £1.00

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Own Clothes Day – Bring a ‘Bric- a- Brac’ item

Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Light Switch on – Pupils invited to return at **3.45PM** to see the Lights be switched on. Weather permitting Mince Pies and drinks will be served outside. **NOTE TIME CHANGE**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Children’s Christmas Market Afternoon

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Play- 11.30 am and 4.00 pm – Class 2 families

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Nativity Play- 11.30 am and 4.00 pm – Class 1 families

\*\*\* Nativity tickets re booked through the Booking forms issued and some restrictions will be in place

w/c 13.12.21 - 17.12.21 – The FIVE Funtastic days of Christmas!!

You could either choose to select only the items you wish to join in with or pay £15.00 for a Funtastic Five Day Christmas pass and get a special souvenir stamp card!!

13.12.21 – Trip to the Pantomime – Lowther Pavillion – Sleeping Beauty. £10 per pupil with the WHOLE cost of transport is kindly funded by the FOSM

14.12.21 –KS1 Party day and Disco 3.15 -4.15 pm      KS2- Colouring Competition

15.12.21 – KS2 Party day and Disco 3.15 -4.15 pm      KS1- Colouring Competition

16.12.21 – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner

17.12.21 – Christmas Accessory Day – Uniform and either a Christmas hat or head band and hopefully, if his Reindeers are free, Father Christmas will visit!!

### Celebrations Awards

	<b>Achievement Award Winner</b>	<b>'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, think creatively</b>	<b>Welfare Award Winner</b>
Class 1	William McMillan	Esmee Woodruff- Brown	Klara Niezgoda
Class 2	Darcey Chambers	Isla Pennington	Jessica Moore
Class 3	Harry Bass	Annie Nelson	Jake Skeffington
Class 4	Jaiden Connell	Henry Stevens	Luke Moyes

*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!”*



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **My child has Coronavirus symptoms what should I do?**

Telephone the School Office to advise your child will not be attending as they are symptomatic and book a PCR test at a test centre. Once this result is returned share this with school via email. If the test is negative and the pupil remains well they may return to school.

### **If my Child demonstrated Coronavirus symptoms in school what will happen?**

You will be contacted and advised you need to collect your child and book a PCR test. Your child will remain at home until they are fit and well and able to share their Negative result.

### **We do not have to isolate anymore do we?**

Bubbles at school are removed and as such, if your child has been in contact with a positive person at school, the whole Bubble will no longer be required to isolate for 10 days. All 'Close Contacts' will be required to take a PCR test and, if this is negative, they may return to school.

NHS Track and Trace will work with families to identify 'Close Contacts'. I would strongly encourage you to liaise with school so we can support you with this and reduce the spread. As you will appreciate staff will be best placed to identify pupils who have sat together, played together etc. etc.

**At present, as we are working with Public Health England myself or Mr. Taylor will call families of Direct Contacts to inform them they need to seek a PCR.**

### **I have a box of Lateral Flow kits at home can I just use this?**

No, you would have to have a PCR result

### **Someone in my household is positive. Can my child attend school?**

We would require the pupil to seek a PCR test and share this result with school via email. If the pupil is negative please remember that this is a negative result at the point of the test and your child could still develop Coronavirus within the Isolation period. We would strongly encourage a daily Lateral Flow Test and ask families to reflect upon the risks to other pupils and staff within school. We want to work in partnership to ensure we keep each other safe and are grateful for your support.