



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 9th December 2022

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move through December we are certainly getting in the Christmas Spirit as we have enjoyed a whole school trip to the Panto and enjoyed a wonderful Nativity performance.

Advent

Each Friday in our Celebration Assembly we will light a Candle on our Advent Wreath and talk a little about why this wreath is special.

Today we lit the pink candle and this candle symbolises 'LOVE' - We pray for those who we love and feel thankful for our family and friends. We thank Mary for the love she showed when she accepted the role to become the Mother of Jesus and we reflect upon how the Advent wreath – as a circle and ever green reflects that God's love is everlasting. It has no beginning and no end.



Who do you love? Who in your family and friends are you thankful for?

*Who loves you? Do you know God loves you every day and watches over you.
You are made in his image and likeness!*

Pantomime – 6.12.22

What a FANTASTIC day we had at the Pantomime - It was such fun and a wonderful experience being able to go as a whole school family!!

The children were an absolute credit to us and we all enjoyed singing, cheering, clapping and shouting along with the performance.

A special thank you to all our supporting volunteers as well as Pete Marquis and the FOSM for covering the transport costs.

“I really enjoyed the Pantomime. I really loved the part when the Ugly Sisters were stuck in the forest and Buttons told so many jokes” James Picking, Class 4

“It was really good- It was really funny when Mr. C's name was called out and I liked the jokes!” Tommy Holland Bass, Class 3

Baarmy Bethlehem – 8.12.22

On Thursday we were so lucky to enjoy a wonderful performance by Classes 1 and 2 – Baarmy Bethlehem !! The pupils have worked so hard to practice and put this wonderful Nativity together and this was reflected in the standard of the performance we saw!!

“ The parents all clapped and it made me feel happy” Ella- Grace McLaughlin

“It was really nice to be in the play. I saw my family and I felt proud. My favourite song was Bethlehem has gone bonkers !! This was because it was so busy !!” Maxwell Houlding

“It was an amazing show. All the boys and girls worked really hard on the Nativity. I liked where they all travelled to Bethlehem and an Inn keeper said they can stay in their stable” Felicity Pye, Class 4



Thank you Mr. Taylor of Taylor's Garage - Clifton



Today we met Mr. Duncan Taylor to say a 'BIG THANK YOU' as he has kindly donated money to school to enable us to buy two full book bands for Key Stage 2. The Librarians met with him, read to him and alongside Mr. C gave a tour of the school. Mr. Taylor is a past pupil of St. Mary's and owns a local business 'Taylor's Garage' so had kindly asked to 'give something back' to the school community.

"It was really nice to meet him and see his reactions to how the school has changed. He was proud of everyone's work and was really impressed. He enjoyed talking and listening to the Liberians and told us all "good job"! His Mother really appreciated the Thank You and Christmas cards we gave too" Finney Griffiths , Class 4

Strep A and Scarlett Fever – Signs, Symptoms and what to do if you are concerned

I am sure that most of you will be aware that within the media it has been shared that there have been an increase in cases of Scarlet fever and Strep A. In some limited circumstances the cases have been severe which understandably has caused unease and worry amongst parents and Carers.

At school we have had NO confirmed cases at present and continue to follow rigorous hygiene measure within school. In terms of additional measures we are already undertaking those which are recommended - washing hands regularly, encouraging pupils to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and use tissues. As ever we also are grateful of your support in keeping us informed and keeping pupils at home when they are unwell. We carry out these rigorous hygiene measures - fogging, deep cleaning etc. as a school at all times.

The key advice is if you are worried or concerned seek advice from your GP/ 111 service
Some links are shared below should you wish to seek additional advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/group-a-streptococcal-infections-guidance-and-data>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

Matter Ecclesiae Multi Academy Trust

It is the Bishop's vision that ALL Catholic Schools will become part of Catholic Multi Academy Trusts by 2026. At present schools are invited to decide at which point before this date they wish to become an Academy.

Within our Locality the first groups of 7 Primary schools have joined effective 1st December 2022. I share some information below;

Inspired by the example of Mary, Mother of Church, the Mater Ecclesiae Trust is a family of Catholic schools living and learning together for the common good of our children, families, and communities.

The purpose of the Trust is to enable schools in the Diocese of Lancaster to become active members of a rooted Catholic community of learners. Our focus is to connect to others and join together in establishing excellent working practices in our Catholic MAT. We envision a teaching and learning community where leadership and training opportunities will support staff development and where staff and pupils thrive in our 'One Family in Christ.'

As a Trust we will work together to:

- provide all our students with the very best education in joyful and faith-filled schools.*
- collaborate on school improvement and policy development.*
- celebrate and recognise expertise and success as we learn from each other.*
- create systems and processes to operate efficiently and supportively as a group, in the firm belief that we share a mission and a purpose, with the family and each child in our care at the core.*

Our schools will strengthen the Catholic mission in the Diocese of Lancaster and have the integral development of our children at the heart of all we do. As a Catholic trust, we will work with parents (the primary educators) in a shared calling to ensure our children receive an outstanding education, providing them with the knowledge, skills and spiritual development to excel in all they do.

At present St. Mary's has not made any final decision in regard to dates. We will, as ever, keep you fully informed and included throughout the process at all points.

'Mary Monday's' – 12.12.22

On Monday afternoon all pupils will have the opportunity to visit Church with school staff, Mrs. Fitzpatrick and the Sisters. We will pray a decade of the Rosary and have some quiet time to offer our thoughts and feelings. Children are warmly welcome to bring their own personal Rosary beads if they wish.

If you would like us to remember any particular prayer intentions please either email these to staff or sent them in and these shall be taken to Church.

Pupils are welcome to wear their Christmas Jumpers with their uniform on Monday (There is no charge for this).

Friend's Of St. Mary's

*Hello Friends and Family. I just wanted to say on behalf of myself and all at FOSM,
THANK YOU!*

*Thank you to everyone that very kindly donated to our Christmas Fayre, and all who volunteered
their time.*

Thank you to all who came along and made the day an incredibly special one.

We raised an amazing £900 this will contribute to our total for the outdoor class room.

Santa Dash!!! 14th December 2022 ...Its nearly time !!!



It is getting very close to our exciting SANTA DASH and we cannot wait to warm up (To Christmas Music of course) and get running...We shall don our Santa Hats and run and dance along. At the end you can expect a GIANT medal...they are impressive indeed!!

Please help us by collecting as many sponsors as you can before the day!!!

We ask for a minimum sponsorship of £2.00 per pupil. Every penny we raise will go towards school funds. Thank you for helping us raise lots of money!

You can expect Christmas music and a few surprises along the way!!!!

'Stay and Play' Key Stage 1 – 12th December 2022

Classes 1 and 2 would like to invite you to 'Stay and Play' on Monday 12th December from 9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

This will provide an opportunity for you to explore the classroom and make some Christmas crafts with the pupils.

After School Club – 'Merry Monday's'

All pupils have been issued with forms for 'Merry Mondays'Please return these booking forms if you wish to attend.



12.12.22 – Merry Monday will be Christmas Quiz fun!

Christmas Mass times



Canon Adrian has shared the Mass times for the Christmas Period below:-

The Christmas Mass times are as follows:

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December 5.30 p.m. Children's First Mass of Christmas (St Andrew's Cottam)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December 8.30 p.m. Christmas Mass during the Night (St Andrew's Cottam)

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December 9.00 a.m. Christmas Dawn Mass (St Mary's Lea Town)

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass (St Andrew's Cottam)

N.B. There will be no 6.00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 12 th December	-	Stay & Play - Key Stage 1 'Mary' Monday <i>All classes will visit Church for prayer in the afternoon!</i>
		Christmas Jumper Day (<i>no charge</i>)
Tuesday 13 th December	-	Santa Dash - a.m. Special visitor - p.m.
Wednesday 14 th December	-	Christmas Lunch Key Stage 1 Party - <i>Party clothes</i>
Thursday 15 th December	-	Key Stage 2 Party - <i>Party clothes</i> Last Day of Term
Wednesday 4 th January 23	-	School Re-opens

Celebrations Awards

	Achievement Award Winner	'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively	Welfare Award Winner
Class 1	ALL CLASS 1	Ivy Robinson	Ria Swali Kaur
Class 2	ALL CLASS 2	Roisin Moss	Klara Niezgoda
Class 3	Nicholas Bielas-Barnes	Lillianna Conway	Harry Bass
Class 4	Finnley Foxall Holmes	Jonah Hurtault	Chloe Moore

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!”

