



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 12

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. This is an important part of the Church's year in its own right, and not just a period before Christmas for shopping and buying presents. In school we will be reminding children of the theme of each week of Advent and how important the watching and waiting is for all of us. The theme of the coming week is 'repent'.

It has been a busy week in school and we are pleased that all our events have gone ahead despite inclement conditions outside the classroom door.

Choir visit to Trinity School

We were delighted to be able to accept an invitation to attend a concert provided by the choir of Trinity School on Monday. It is important for our choir to be able to see other choirs in action. Despite the downpour on the way, they learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the music. Many thanks to Miss Attwell for organising the visit.

Flu Nasal Vaccinations

These were completed on Tuesday in school for children whose parents completed the paperwork. If you were not able to do so in time, you now need to approach your GP for guidance as the service in school is completed.

Science STEM workshop at Trinity School

On Thursday a group of our scientists went to Trinity School to engage in some really interesting work in the science department there. I am sure that they will feed back to the rest of the school next week about what they have learned.

Mobile telephone use

I would like to echo the directions that were issued in the newsletter last week - please keep all communications with your child whilst they are on the school site through the school office so that we are aware of changes of plans. If parents continue to call children's mobile phones whilst they know that they are in school, the facility to bring phones into school will be withdrawn.

How do I record my child's absence?

We are now getting towards peak time for absence because of winter ailments, and it's important that if your child is unwell you know how to contact the school. When leaving a message please try to be as clear as possible and include your child's full name, class, and the symptoms (what the illness is). It's not enough to say 'unwell' or 'sick' because for the register, the office needs a specific reason for the absence.

Party Bags

Whilst we are delighted that children wish to celebrate birthdays with their friends in school, there are real challenges in doing this because of allergic reactions among some children. Accordingly, we ask that parents do not bring party bags or treats onto the school site at all.

Assemblies and Liturgies

It was wonderful to hear the assembly from the children of 5C yesterday when they talked about friendship. It gave us all lots to think about. There is only one assembly remaining in the term, as there is a brief pause to create time for children to plan and rehearse the Christmas Nativity production.

the last class assembly of the term will be:

7th December – Class 5B

All assemblies start at 10.25am this term.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Sienna and Evelyn in 3A, Chris in 3E, Zion in 4D, Denis in 4T, Leonardo in 5B, Jaime in 5C, Sheana in 6G and Afolabi in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Kamsiyochi in 5C and the swimmers of the week award are Alan in 3E and Kayla in 5B . The Kindness Award this week goes to and Daniella in 3A and Sofiia in 4T.

Have a good weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew McDonald

Head of School

Health Advice for parents

Coronavirus

The World Health Organisation now considers the covid pandemic to not be a global health emergency. For advice and support if you suspect someone has covid, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

When using a test, check that it is a recent one that is set up to detect new strains of the virus.

Group A Strep (streptococci)

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Children with these symptoms should not attend school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>