



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 13

Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents,

This weekend we encounter John the Baptist in the Gospel of the Second Week of Advent. John is a remarkable figure and plays a vital role in pointing all of us in the right direction. *'Make his paths straight'*. In our assembly today when we shared the Gospel for Sunday, we talked about John the Baptist and his message that someone much greater than him is just around the corner. The children reflected on the message of being ready.

Important – Swimming Times next week

Please note that swimming in school will be for Years 5 & 6 on MONDAY next week, and on TUESDAY for Years 3 & 4. Please remind your child to bring his or her kit on the different day for this week only.

Important – Final Day of Autumn Term, Thursday 21st December

Please note that in line with early closing at the Infant School, the Junior School will close to children at **2.15pm** on the final day before the school holiday. Please collect your children from the normal place at 2.15pm, not 3.30pm on that day. There will be no Homework Club on that day.

Year 3 and the BRIT School

On Wednesday the children of Year 3 walked down to Central Library and were entertained by students from the BRIT School in a winter production. We are so fortunate to have such talented young people in our town and I have thanked the BRIT School for their invitation. It was a stimulating performance and I am sure it fired the imaginations for the children.

The Science Museum

Unfortunately, owing to strike action by rail users, the decision was taken yesterday to postpone today's visit to the Science Museum. We are working hard to see if the trip can be rescheduled.

Forthcoming events

Disco time

This week all families received letters with details about our Christmas Discos.

Monday 11th December 6pm – 8pm Year 3&4 Disco – tickets £2.50

Tuesday 12th December 6pm – 8pm Year 5&6 Disco – tickets £2.50

Please remember the following points:

All children must go home at the normal time and return at 6pm for the start of the disco. There will be no adults in school who can look after children in the interim.

Discos are for St Mary's children from the appropriate year groups only – no brothers or sisters.

Teachers will reach out to ask for parent help if needed.

It's really important that children are collected promptly at the end of the disco – please make careful plans.

Light refreshments will be on sale to the children.

Year 4 Christmas Nativity

The Year 4 children have been working hard in preparation and will present to parents and carers on **Tuesday 19th December** at 9.30am.

Christmas Carol Concert

All parents and carers are invited to join us in the school hall at 3.45pm on the same day (19th December) for our Carol Concert.

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. *Please be vigilant and test of COVID if your child has symptoms.*

Assemblies and Liturgies

Thank-you to the children of Class 5B who presented the final assembly of the term yesterday on the theme of Hope, The Rainbow Nation and Nelson Mandela. It was a beautiful observation of the importance of keeping hope in dark times.

Assemblies and liturgies will resume in the Spring term **and will revert to 9.30am.**

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Jaden in 3A, Esther in 3E, Amelia in 4D, Joel in 4T, Ewuraba in 5B, Felix in 5C, Chiamaka in 6G and Eryk in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Harmony in 6G and the swimmer of the week is Chinua in 6G. The Kindness Award this week goes to Joseph in 6G.

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>