



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

C.E.O.: Miss L. O'Callaghan

[www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk)



## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 14

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents,

**Gaudete!** This Sunday, the Third of Advent, is a message of celebration for us all. *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete;* which means 'Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again I say rejoice!' It reminds us in our daily lives that to stop and rejoice at the wonder that the Lord's coming is near. We have discussed this in school with the children and asked them to look out for their priests in pink and rose vestments at Mass this week.

### **Thank-you**

Thank-you to everybody who made the children's disco evenings such a success. The children had a great time, their behaviour was excellent, and they were all collected on time. The last of these makes the end of the evening so much easier for the teachers who are tidying up.

Many thanks to the parents of Nicole in Year 3, Eilam in Year 5, Sienna in Year 6 and Daisy and Lily's mum; all of whom helped with the evenings. We raised **£800** in total, which is an amazing amount for two evenings. The money will be a direct benefit to the children in school. In the spring term the School Council will be involved in how the funds are spent.

### **Christmas Tree decorations**

Thank-you to all the children who have created beautiful decorations for our Christmas Tree at the reception area. These will be judged on Monday, so there is still time at the weekend to complete a design.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Year 4 Christmas Nativity**

The Year 4 children have been working hard in preparation and will present to parents and carers on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 (19<sup>th</sup> December) for our Carol Concert. There will be hot chocolate and cookies on sale for parents.

#### **Christmas Dinner**

The children's Christmas Dinner will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There are no special arrangements needed. Children can of course wear their own Christmas themed jumpers.

#### **Jolly Jumper Day**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December is also 'Jolly Jumper Day'. Children are allowed to wear their own colourful Christmas-themed jumpers. A donation of £2 is appreciated for our fundraising.

### **Car parking**

Yesterday I had a meeting with a local business owner who came to ask for support with regard to antisocial parking in Sydenham Road. It is a disappointment that parents collecting children still ignore the polite requests of local residents and businesses not to park on their land. Antisocial behaviour of this kind reflects badly on the reputation of our schools. I have told the visitor that she has my full support if reporting cars to the Council or the police.

### **Assemblies and Liturgies**

Assemblies and liturgies will resume in the Spring term **and will revert to 9.30am**. This is in response to requests from parents who have found it difficult to take time off to attend assemblies at 10.25.

### **Achievement Certificates**

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Carol in 3A, Aaron in 3E, Ireayomide in 4D, Leon in 4T, Anthony in 5B, Darcie in 5C, Sebastian in 6G and Ifeanyichukwu in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Shevon in 5B and the swimmer of the week is Andrea in 3A. The Kindness Award this week goes to Jaden in 3A.

### **Head of School Blog**

Please join me on the school website for a Christmas Blog – found in the 'Junior School Information' tab.

<https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk/page/?title=Head+of+School+Blog&pid=278>

### **Important – Final Day of Autumn Term, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Have a peaceful 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>