



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 15

Thursday 21st December 2023

Dear Parents,

It is unusual to be writing a newsletter so late in the year, but as the weeks have fallen this year we are in school for the Winter Solstice. Midwinter Day is the traditional time for pre-Christian celebrations in Britain, onto which our Church placed the feast of Christmas in the early fourth century. It is a joyous time for everyone.

Miss Hasson

Today is the last day that Miss Hasson is working with us at St Mary's. She has served our school for five years. She will now return to her life and career in Ireland, and we thank her for all that she has given to the school. She will be missed by the children, and of course by all her friends in the staff.

'May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.'

Mr Pinnock will be teaching Class 5C for the Spring Term. Mr Pinnock is an extremely experienced teacher who has worked with us for a number of years. We welcome him to the staff.

Christmas Tree decorations

Thank-you to all the children who created beautiful decorations for our Christmas Tree at the reception area. All the decorations were judged by Mrs Lord, our Office Manager, and myself on Monday. The winners are: Mojo in 3E, Govind in 5C and Nneoma in 6P. Congratulations to those children and all the others whose artistic decorations have brightened the front of the school this advent.

Year 4 Christmas Nativity

Congratulations and well done to all the children of Year 4 who performed such a brilliant Nativity Play for the school this week. Their interpretation of the Nativity story reminded us again of the most important element of Christmas.

Christmas Carol Concert

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and families into school in Tuesday afternoon to share Christmas Carols and songs. It was a fitting way to prepare everyone for Christmas.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday the children enjoyed their Christmas lunches; prepared for them by Mrs Fleming, Mrs Sraj and their team. We thank all the kitchen staff for their hard work this year and the care that they give to the children every day.

Jolly Jumper Day

Thank-you to all the children who supported 'Jolly Jumper Day' yesterday. It was great to see such colour at Christmas Lunch.

Fundraising update

The final figure that was raised in the Autumn Term is **£1,517.70**. This is an amazing achievement and a reflection of the generosity of everyone. The money was raised at our Discos, by selling Christmas Tree decorations, the sale of hot chocolate and cookies at our Carol Service, and the cards, cushions and mugs sold earlier in the term. The money raised goes straight back into facilities and resources for our children.

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.

Please note these dates:

Thursday 18th January – Class 4T

Thursday 25th January – Class 4D

Thursday 1st February – Class 3E

Signing in and out system

From the start of the Spring Term, children arriving late will be signed in using our electronic system, Inventry. Children collected early will be asked to sign out in the same manner.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Aarav in 3A, Mark in 3E, All of Class 4D, All of Class 4T, Jeremiah in 5B, Atinuke in 5C, Havio in 6G and Chloe in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Princess-Victoria in 4T and the swimmer of the week is Omogbolahan in 6P. The Kindness Award this week goes to Hulda in 3E.

All the staff at school would like me to pass on thanks for the many gifts that they have received this Christmas. On a personal level, I am overwhelmed by your kindness.

The school closes today and re-opens to all on Monday 8th January 2024. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. Please keep in your prayers all those who, for whatever reason, are not with loved ones on Christmas Day.

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>