



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

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www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 13

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents,

The dark days of winter continue, and the focus on the light of the Advent Wreath and our altar candles are important for the children.

Health Alert

We have had a very high level of absence from children and staff this week. Seasonal colds, Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Disease) and Flu have all been reported.

Whilst all of these are difficult to deal with and unpleasant, there are several things that we can do to limit the spread of infection.

- If your child vomits, please keep him or her at home and monitor. Children cannot return to school until 48 hours after that last incidence of vomiting.
- Please make sure that your child has tissues or a handkerchief if he or she has a cold. Follow the well-known NHS advices of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' with tissues.
- Rigorous, careful hand washing is needed by everyone, especially after using the toilet.
- Consider vaccinations for the vulnerable people in your family. The NHS is offering free vaccinations for people with underlying health conditions.

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



Advance notice – Infants School Christmas Fair

Please don't forget to support the Infant Christmas Fair, which takes place a week **this afternoon**.

Disco evenings

Next week, children will be welcomed back to school to have a dance and share the fun.

The Disco for children in Years 3 & 4 is Monday 9th December from 6pm to 8pm.

The Disco for children in Years 5 & 6 is Tuesday 10th December from 6pm to 8pm.

The Disco evenings always run very smoothly. Please remember the following points:

'Aspire not to have more but to be more'



Another reason to choose us.



- Children who are returning for the Disco at 6pm *must go home first*. There is nobody in school to supervise children from 3.30pm to 6pm.
- Please do not bring your child very early – the door will only open at 6pm prompt.
- Please remember that the staff who run the disco do so in their own time, and by 8pm have had a long day. Please make sure that your child knows who is collecting him or her and that they are at school promptly at 8pm.
- Brothers and sisters from other year groups are not allowed to attend.
- If you can offer some time to sell refreshments, please contact Miss Goodman via the School Office.

Assemblies and Liturgies

There was no liturgy in the hall this week because our Year 6 children were sitting the 2023 KS2 test papers. This will inform our planning for their learning for the Spring Term.

Nativity Play

A reminder to the parents of Year 4 children that their performance takes place on Tuesday 17th December at 9.30am. Unfortunately, parents from other year groups cannot attend because of the size of our hall.

Christmas Tree Decoration

Don't forget to buy a template to decorate – 50p at the School Office

A Very Croydon Christmas

This weekend (starting this evening), there is a wide range of events around Croydon town centre. Please take time to follow the link and look at all the events.

<https://www.culturecroydon.com/event/a-very-croydon-christmas-festival/>

Advance notice – final day of term

The last day of the Autumn Term is Friday 20th December, when the school will close to children at **2.15pm**. Please make sure that you have noted this earlier finishing time. There will be no after-school clubs on the final afternoon.

Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to Pranav in 3A, Olivia-Renee in 3E, Mojo in 4D, Alexandra in 4T, Gabriel in 5B, Adeleine in 5C, Jaime in 6G and Ryan in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Adya in 6P. The kindness award goes to Kaial in 3E.

Have an enjoyable 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.

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