



SCHOOL UPDATES

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING:

On Monday, the pupils took part in the filming of the Christmas DVD 'Following a Christmas Star'. DVDs will be on sale from school for £10 each; please return the attached reply slip to make an order, which will be sent home via the children's blue bags in the last week of term. We will also be selling photos of the pupils in their costumes before each performance; all money raised will go to support the school.

Y4 FIRST RECONCILIATION:

A huge well done to all the pupils in Y4 who, during a beautiful service on Tuesday, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please continue to pray for these pupils, and their catechists, as they continue their journey of Sacramental preparation this year.

REMINDERS

TRAVELLING CRIBS:

Please remember to return the travelling cribs – intact and complete – to school the very next school day, to ensure that all families may share in the special journey during the lead-up to Christmas. Please try to take and send photos of your experiences in to class, to be compiled within a class portfolio of the project.

GYMNASTICS:

There will be no Gymnastics sessions for the remainder of the school year – sessions will start again on Friday 20th January 2017.

FRIENDS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

Thank you to all those friends and family of the school who have supported the Friends of St Mary's in providing some wonderful prizes for our Christmas raffle. Attached to the newsletter this week is a list of prizes available. Your child will be sent home with 2 books of tickets to sell; please return any unsold tickets to school asap, and if you require more, get in contact with the school office. Please send all monies in a clearly labelled envelope in your child's bag, or return to the office.

MINI-VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

The Mini-Vinnies is a group of pupils in Year 5, linked to the St Vincent De Paul society, who meet regularly in school to plan and undertake acts of charity, good will and prayer in our local community. This year, the Mini-Vinnies are planning an afternoon tea (with performances from our school choir and musicians) for elderly parishioners and members of our local community on Friday 16th December (1:30pm in school). If you know of anybody who would be keen to be involved in the event, please could you get in contact with school and let us know; we would also be keen to hear if there are any individuals who would require transport to the event, as this could be arranged. We would love this to be an opportunity for the pupils at St Mary's to do something special for the more senior members of our community, so please ask around and see who would be interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BLING YOUR BIKE COMPETITION:

Please see attached the Bling Your Bike/Scooter competition

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS:

Please help us to prepare for Jesus' glorious arrival at Christmas, by joining in with the following:

- Year 3 and 4 Parish Liturgy; 2:30pm on Wednesday 7th December 2016 (St Mary's RC Church). All welcome.
- Carols by Candlelight Service; 3:30pm on Tuesday 20th December 2016 (St Mary's RC Church).
 - *All pupils are expected to stay and take part in this service; if, in exceptional cases, your child is unable to attend the service, please contact Mrs Noble in the school office before the 20th. This should last no longer than an hour, and pupils will be available to pick-up, or go to after-school provision, as normal after the service.*
- Whole School Mass; 9:30am on Thursday 22nd December 2016 (St Mary's RC Church) – followed by refreshments, entertainment and the drawing of the Christmas raffle in the school Hall.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES:

Tuesday 13 th December	9:30am	Year 1 & Year 2
	1:30pm	Year 3 & Year 4
	6:00pm	Year 5 & Year 6
Wednesday 14 th December	9:30am	Year 5 & Year 6
Thursday 15 th December	9:30am	Year 3 & Year 4
	1:30pm	Year 1 & Year 2
Friday 16 th December	10:00am	Reception and Year 5 Nativity

No tickets are required for these events, and entry is free. All performances will take place in the school hall, and in line with school policy, photography and video will not be allowed during any performance.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY:

We will be having a Christmas Jumper Day on Monday 12th December; the cost will be £1 per child/family, and all funds will go to the St Mary's Gift for Life fund, to support ongoing projects run by the Little Sisters of St Francis, Kenya.

STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT:

An open invitation to all family and friends of pupils in Y4 to attend a short concert showcasing the progress we have made since the start of term; to be held on Monday 12th December at 2:45pm. No tickets required – the more the merrier!

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 05/12/2016

- MONDAY - Bling your Bike/Scooter & Y4/Y5 Scooter Session
- TUESDAY - Last Happy Feet session until after Christmas holidays
- THURSDAY – Y5 & Y4 Forest School Sessions
- FRIDAY – NO GYMNASTICS

CHRISTMAS DVD ORDER FORM

I would like to order copy/ies of the Christmas DVD at a cost of £10 each.

Name of child..... Year Group.....

Signed.....

