



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### CHRISTMAS PLAYS:

A huge well done for all pupils, each of whom has played a special part in making our Christmas performances so magical this year. Each of them has shone in their special role, and through singing, acting and learning of lines, has shared with our school family the wonderful God-given gifts and talents they have.

Thank you, on behalf of the staff and pupils, for coming to support our pupils in their performances, and we hope that we have helped you on your way to enjoying a very merry Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING:

Thank you to all those who have purchased photos and DVDs, on sale at the Christmas performances this week. We will ensure all orders of DVDs are honored, and DVDs sent home before the end of term. We will share with you, in due course, the total raised from the sales of photos and DVDs, but know that it will make a huge difference to supporting learning opportunities for all of our pupils.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY:

Thank you for your generous donations for our annual Christmas jumper day; we raised £160, which will go to support the work of the Little Sisters of St Francis in Kenya through our parish Gift for Life fund.

### CHRISTMAS PANTO:

The pupils in Years 1 to 6 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at the Theatre Royal on Wednesday, taking in this year's production of Cinderella. A special well done goes to Jude, Max and Elizabeth in Year 1, who played an extra special part in the panto, being called out on stage to have a chat with the star of the show Danny Adams!

## REMINDERS

### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:

Our Carols by Candlelight service will be taking place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3:30pm. The service promises to be a joyous celebration, and an excellent way of preparing for Jesus' arrival on Christmas day. As you can imagine, with the huge numbers of pupils and adults in attendance, organisation can be a nightmare, so we've provided a few specifics below, to help inform you as best as possible of our plans for the evening. If there is anything else you require clarification of, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr Wheatley who will be glad to help.

#### *Is the event for all pupils? How long will it last?*

Yes. As already reported, there is an expectation that all pupils will take part in the service; if there is an exceptional circumstance which would mean that your child is unable to stay until the end of the carol service (around 4:30pm), we would ask that you make school aware of this **before Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, so that we are able to plan accordingly. **Children who are unable to stay for the service will be brought to the front of school (the main office) to be picked up at 3pm.** If we are not made aware of this prior to the 20<sup>th</sup>, pupils will automatically be taken to church.

*Where can I park? What will happen at the end of the service?*

Parking will be an issue, so please factor this in to your planning. The school yard will be open for parking from around 3pm. Members of staff will be on hand to marshal traffic and ensure that all pupils get in to church safely. Following the service, pupils will be lined up, by class, on the football court. Please line up around the perimeter of the court, and await instruction from your child's class teacher. No cars will be permitted to leave the school playground or church car park until all children are safely under the supervision of an adult, so if this poses an issue, please park elsewhere. No cars will be permitted to park in the staff car park.

*What about seating?*

Seating will be reserved for school pupils and staff. There will be a large number of extra bodies in church, so please be considerate of others with regards to seating/standing, and we would ask that nobody stand in the centre aisle. There will be additional standing room in the church porch, and internal doors will remain open to allow all present to be active in the service.

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES:**

You will receive a letter from your child's class teacher specifying what you could offer to your child's Christmas party buffet. Children can come in to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party, but please remember that they will still be going outside for playtime and lunchtime, so sensible, warm footwear, clothing and outerwear are a must.

**LAST DAY OF TERM:**

A reminder that the last day of term for all pupils is **THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**. All pupils will be back in school on **TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**.

**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.

**LUNCH MONEY:**

Please ensure that all lunch money is paid up to date for the end of term. Letters received from the school office will indicate how much needs to be paid, and there is an expectation that payments will be made in advance each week in the new year. If this is an issue, you must contact Mr Wheatley, who will be happy to speak to you in confidence.

**AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:**

**GYMNASTICS** – There will be no Gymnastics sessions for the remainder of the school year; sessions will start again on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**HAPPY FEET** – There will be no Happy Feet sessions for the remainder of the school year; sessions will start again on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**TENNIS** – There will be no Tennis sessions for the remainder of the year; sessions will start again on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**IRISH DANCING** – The last Irish Dancing Session will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December; sessions will start again on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**CHOIR** – Choir will resume on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

#### GRASSROOTS MULTI-SKILLS CLUB:

Pupils who have been allocated a place at the Grassroots Multi-skills club have received a letter to confirm that the club will be starting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 3:15pm – 4:15pm (for 6 weeks). We have a number of places left; the club was originally targeted at Years 1-3, but we will also be opening the club to interested pupils in Year 4. If your child would like to take part in the club, please speak to Mrs Noble in the School Office.

*Pupils who are already involved in the school choir will not be given a place (even if a reply slip has been returned to school) as we would not support switching of clubs part-way through the school year.*

#### 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. Please send all monies in a clearly labelled envelope in your child's bag, or return to the office. If anyone has any unused raffle tickets can you please return them to school.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.*

##### MINI-VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

An open invitation to all Grandparents and elderly members of our community to come along for tea and entertainment on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (1:30pm in school). ALL WELCOME!

##### CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS:

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

- Carols by Candlelight Service; 3:30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (St Mary's RC Church).
- Whole School Mass; 9:30am on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 (St Mary's RC Church) – followed by refreshments, entertainment and the drawing of the Christmas raffle in the school Hall.

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 19/12/2016

MONDAY - 1:00 Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Party

(letters will be sent out by each class teacher giving more details).

TUESDAY - Christmas Dinner Day (if your child is normally packed lunch but would like a Christmas dinner the cost is £2.00, which should be received by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December).

Carols by Candlelight (3:30pm to approx. 4:30pm, St Mary's RC Church).

WEDNESDAY - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Party (letters will be sent out by each class teacher giving more details).

THURSDAY - 9:30 Whole School Mass followed by Tea/Coffee and mince pies in the school hall and Christmas Raffle Draw.

Toy Day for KS1 and 2.

