



### RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY AT ST MARY'S

We are on the lookout for a new **Senior Office Administrator** to take up post in **January 2024**. You can find out more information regarding the post and apply here:

[https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Senior\\_Administration\\_Assistant/255598](https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Senior_Administration_Assistant/255598).

This is a great opportunity for a dynamic, adaptable, hardworking individual who is passionate about working in a school environment such as ours to come and be a valued member of our fantastic team. Please consider whether you – or someone you know – has the requisite skills and personal attributes to take up the challenge.

---

### IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please complete the following form if you (or another family member) would like to attend our community 'Christmas crafts with the kids' event on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/MuuLLEClqW>.
- Please ensure that you have completed the following form by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** if you would like your child (in Year 4) to participate in this year's Sacramental Preparation  
<https://forms.office.com/e/9S9wi6jgYk>.
- This week's early downpour serves as a good reminder to be prepared at this time of year. Please remind yourself of the school's procedures for adverse weather here:  
<http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk/snow.html>.

---

### SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:

This Sunday, we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent: the start of the new Liturgical year and the season of preparation towards the feast of the Nativity of our Lord. In school, we have a number of planned events for pupils and their families to take part in as we journey towards this joyous celebration.

#### Reverse Advent Calendar

We will, once again, be supporting some wonderful local causes championed through our parish's 'Love Christmas' campaign. Please see attached some more information about an initiative which will be starting next week, through which we will be asking pupils to use the first three Sundays of Advent to think about how we are called to give something back to those in at Christmas.

#### Traveling Cribs

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 will have the opportunity to bring home one of our 'traveling cribs' over the next three weeks which is a lovely way to share in the joy of the Christmas story as a family at home. We'd love to hear from you and see photos of the traveling crib's visit to your home.

#### Christmas Choir

Mrs Sanderson has reinstated our School choir this Advent, and we have been so inundated with pupils wanting to take part that she has had to have dedicated Upper Key Stage 2 and Lower Key Stage 2 groups! The Upper Key Stage 2 choir will have its first performance at the parish's 'Senior Moments' Christmas

lunch for senior members of our parish and local community on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and there will also be performance from all pupils in KS2 wishing to be involved at the various events outlined below.

### Christmas Plays

We would love to see friends and family come along to one (or more) of our Christmas play performances. All performances will take place in the school hall, and tickets are not required.

CHRISTMAS PLAY	DATES/TIMES
Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play	Performance 1 Thursday 14.12.23 10am Performance 2 Friday 15.12.23 10am
Year 3 and 4 Christmas Play	Performance 1 Tuesday 12.12.23 2pm Performance 2 Wednesday 13.12.23 9:30am
Year 5 and 6 Christmas Play	Performance 1 Tuesday 12.12.23 9:30am Performance 2 Wednesday 13.12.23 2pm

### Christmas Crafts with the Kids

We would love parents/carers, friends and family to join us in school to help out pupils with some festive themed crafts on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. As we do not know the likely attendance, we would ask that all those intending to take part complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/MuuLLECLqW>. The 'workshops' are likely to run throughout the morning however if we are inundated with numbers, we may need to use the afternoon for some of our classes. We will communicate timings at the earliest opportunity.

### Christmas Carol Service

There will be a Christmas carol service at St Mary's RC Church at 2pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. All are welcome to attend, and once again, no tickets are required.

### Christmas Jumper, Party and Dinner Day

We'll be having a day of seasonal merriment for all pupils in school on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Pupils are invited to come in their own clothes (festive themed jumpers etc if they wish) and to join in our annual Christmas lunch. There is no cost for the day.

### Whole School Mass

We will finish our Christmas preparations, as we always do, with a whole school Mass at 9:30am on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. All are welcome to attend, and we will have refreshments and festive entertainment back at school following Mass.

We can't wait to see you at one (or more) of these events during what is such a special time for us all.