



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

ADVENT:

As we come towards the end of the second week of Advent, we prepare ourselves for *Gaudete Sunday* – the third Sunday of Advent – the day on which we light the rose-coloured candle which reminds us that it is a joyous time of waiting as we prepare for Jesus' coming on Christmas day. This week in school, there has been much joy! All our pupils have had the chance to share their amazing Christmas productions with friends and family from near and far, we've had visits to the Northern Stage and Theatre Royal for the Panto and our Mini-Vinnies have been involved in collecting donations for two very important local charities to support some of our most vulnerable neighbours. In these ways, and so many more, we continue to ready ourselves to welcome Christ in to our lives in a meaningful way this Christmas and look ahead in joyful optimism to that special day. Come Emmanuel, come.

WELCOME BACK AND SEE YOU SOON:

Next week, we welcome back Mrs Ledger from her maternity leave. She will be taking over full-time teaching responsibility in Year 3 at the start of the Spring Term. Miss Isles, who has been with us for two long-term placements now, will be moving on to new ventures as she comes to the end of her fixed contract at school at the end of term.

We will also say 'see you soon' to Mrs Eden, who will be beginning maternity leave once more at the end of term in preparation for the birth of her second child. We wish her and her husband all the best as they ready themselves for their new arrival!

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE:

Thank you, on behalf of our Mini-Vinnies, for all of your donations for the Worswick Welcome and Joe's Place.

TENNIS:

Just to confirm, there will be no tennis on Monday 16th December 2019.

REMINDER – SWIMMING:

Please note that there will be no swimming for Years 3 and 4 for the remainder of the Term.

REMINDER – FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

A huge thank you to all those who have already donated or bought tickets for this year's raffle.

Please remember to return monies for sold raffle tickets and any unsold tickets to school asap.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:

We will be preparing for the joyous celebration of Christmas with a couple of special events in the last week of term. Firstly, we have our 'Carols by Candlelight' service, which has become a highlight of the festive season at St Mary's, on Tuesday 17th December. **In a slight change from our original term dates, the service (held at St Mary's RC Church) will now begin at 2pm**, and should last no more than one hour. As such, pupils will be ready as normal at the end of the school day.

We will also be celebrating whole school Mass on Friday 20th December, at 9:30am. Following Mass, we would like to invite all present back to school for seasonal refreshments and the drawing of the Friends Christmas raffle. Just as with the Carols by Candlelight service, we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to come along as possible, so that we may all prepare for our Lord's coming this Christmas with renewed joy and hope in our hearts.

NEXT WEEK (16.12.19 – 20.12.19)

MONDAY –

NO TENNIS.

TUESDAY –

Christmas Dinner for pupils.

Carols by Candlelight service – all welcome (2pm at St Mary's RC Church).

NO HAPPY FEET.

WEDNESDAY –

KS1 Christmas Party (pupils can wear own clothes – Christmas jumpers if possible – and teachers will send a letter asking for pupils to contribute a food item for the party).

THURSDAY –

KS2 Christmas Party (pupils can wear own clothes – Christmas jumpers if possible – and teachers will send a letter asking for pupils to contribute a food item for the party).

FRIDAY –

Whole school Mass (9:30am at St Mary's RC Church) – all welcome. Followed by refreshments and raffle at school.

Toy day for all pupils.

NO GYMNASTICS.

PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020.