



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents,

With only 10 days of school to go before the Christmas holiday our Christmas preparations are going extremely well. Again, I apologise for the parental absence at this time of year which is out of my control, but at least we have not had to cancel any of the children's fabulous events taking place in and out of school. I look forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to our school field on Thursday 16th December for our short carol service starting at 9.20 am. Tea and coffee will be available from our PTA and deck chairs are welcome.

I would like to thank Fr Luke for welcoming the whole school at this week's Advent Mass which was supported by parishioners. The children sang so beautifully and answered questions with confidence. The behaviour was impeccable as always so well done everyone.

Our school enterprise fair was also a big hit with the pupils and a great experience for all as pupils developed valuable entrepreneurial skills. The children worked so hard preparing their produce and I am sure you will agree that everything looked fabulous.





Following our well supported Y3 Mini Vinnie fundraiser last week which raised a fantastic £74, I was delighted to see our Mini Vinnies preparing Christmas cards for our parish elderly, housebound and sick. What a wonderful way of making someone feel loved. Our Y3 pupils are due to go carol singing outside Carntyne Care Home on Thursday 16th December to bring cheer and Christmas joy to our elderly.



Wednesday is going to be a cracker of a day for pupils as we head to our annual pantomime visit in the morning to see Sleeping Beauty, before heading back to prepare for our Kidz Zone Tinsel disco in the evening. Please make sure you buy your tickets in advance to avoid being disappointed. There will be no ticket sales past Tuesday 7th December..

On Thursday 9th December, we look forward to our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day at St Mary's. This will be a normal uniform bottoms and a Christmas jumper top. Please don't go and buy jumpers for the sake of buying a jumper, children can wear their own jumper with their own decoration (tinsel, baubles or whatever) to turn it into their own individual and unique special Christmas jumper. A suggested donation of £1.00 to support the important work of Save the Children would be appreciated.

Primary School Admissions. A reminder that applications opened on 1st November 2021 and close on 15th January 2022. If you know parents who wish to apply for places for September 2022, please would it be possible to let them know that the Northumberland admission portal for Reception places for September 2022 is now open; it will close mid-January 2022. If you know someone who might like to talk to someone in school about their application, please would you ask them to call and I will happily speak with them or give them a personal tour after school.



Reception 2022 Admissions:

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, your child is due to start reception class in September 2022. You can apply online for a school place from 1 November 2021 until 15th January 2022.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-admissions-places-appeals-1.aspx>



Food Bank Donations:

Please continue to donate tins and dried food as part of the Mini Vinnie’s collection for local food banks. Classes are encouraged to compete to bring in as many items as possible. Each week during Celebration Assembly, Mr. Naughton will weigh the contributions from each class to see who has collected the most! All products will be gratefully received and will be used to create food hampers that St. Mary’s will donate to local food banks in time for Christmas.

Christmas Events

Please see the table below outlining the upcoming Christmas events taking place within school. We are inviting our wonderful families and the community to a magical outdoor Christmas Carol Service which will take place on Thursday 16th December in the school prayer garden with St Mary’s Church in the background. The children will begin to prepare for this over the next few weeks. The service will contain carols, readings and our reception class playing characters from the Christmas story. We’d suggest perhaps you bring along your own chair, as we have a number of carols to perform together as a whole school. If you have anything ‘twinkly’, glow sticks or such like, these would also be wonderful so please bring them along with you – we just need the weather to behave!

The PTA will be on hand to serve coffee, tea and hot chocolate, if you have any questions whatsoever about this event, please just ask.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Christmas Author Visit	Monday 6th December
Tyne Theatre Pantomime-Drop off at school from 8.30am.	Wednesday 8th December
Christmas Disco-Bring party clothes! (Come to school in uniform and bring party clothes in a named bag please)	Wednesday 8th December 3.00 pm - 4.45 pm



<p>Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day</p> <p>(School uniform except for Christmas jumper or a piece of tinsel)</p>	<p>Thursday 9th December</p>
<p>Santa Dash-Bring a Santa hat or some tinsel & your trainers!</p>	<p>Friday 10th December</p>
<p>Christmas Parties-Bring Party clothes!</p> <p>(Come to school in uniform and bring party clothes in a named bag please)</p>	<p>Tuesday 14th December- Reception and Year 1</p> <p>Wednesday 15th December - Year 2 and 3</p> <p>Thursday 16th December - Year 4</p>
<p>Whole School Outdoor Christmas Carol Service - Parents invited.</p>	<p>Thursday 16th December 9.20am</p>
<p>Cinema Visit</p>	<p>Friday 17th December</p>
<p>Care Home Visit Y3 Carol Singing</p>	<p>More information to follow.</p>

Christmas Pantomime- Wednesday 8th December

On Wednesday 8th December we have booked tickets to take the children to see Sleeping Beauty at the Tyne Theatre. The cost of the trip including transport is £10 per pupil. Payment should be made no later than Friday 3rd December to secure your child's place on the trip. A payment item has been set up on ParentMail Pay+ Your payment will act as permission for your child to take part in this trip. Children can be dropped off from **8.30am** on the morning of the trip to enable us to leave promptly at 9.00am. We will return in time for lunch as normal. Please ensure that your child has a warm coat with them.

Please note due to the unpredictable timings of this event all children who normally have school meals will receive a school packed lunch on their return to school.



Santa Dash

On the 10th December we will be running the Santa Dash. Children will run around the yard for approximately one mile wearing a santa hat, reindeer antlers or elf hat etc. Please ensure your child brings trainers as well as their festive headgear and we look forward to seeing Santa's workshop dashing through the snow!



Homework

Please note that the last homework this term will be set today Friday 3rd December to be handed in Wednesday 8th December.

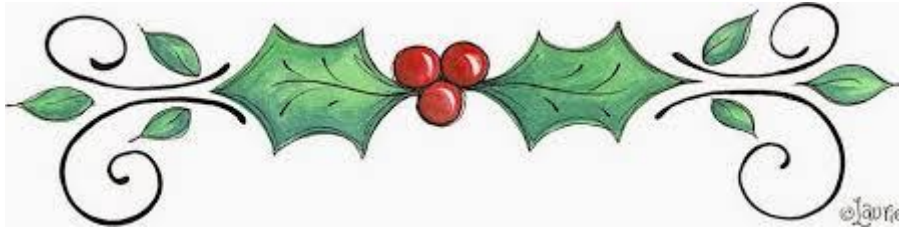
Running Club

Please note that the last Running Club before school will be Thursday 9th November. There will be no running club the last week of term.

Christmas Enterprise Fair:

Our Christmas enterprise fair took place yesterday and was thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff. The amount raised from the sale of some spectacular homemade goods was £241.00. Well done to all of the children in St Mary's for their superb crafts.





Kidz Zone

On Wednesday 8th December there will be a Christmas Disco held in the hall from 3pm to 4.45pm. The food will be a hot dog (Vegetarian style hot dog will be available), Christmas sweets and a drink. If your child would like to attend our disco please have some Christmas festive outfit and some dance moves up their sleeves as there will be a professional DJ producing the music and lights! The cost for the Disco will be £3.50. Payments should be made through the ParentPay+ app.



Also on Wednesday 15th December Kidz Zone has a special Christmas movie night. The cost will be £3.00 and the children will have a chance to receive some Popcorn and a drink. The event will be held in the school hall from 3pm to 4.30pm. Payments should be made through the ParentPay+ app.

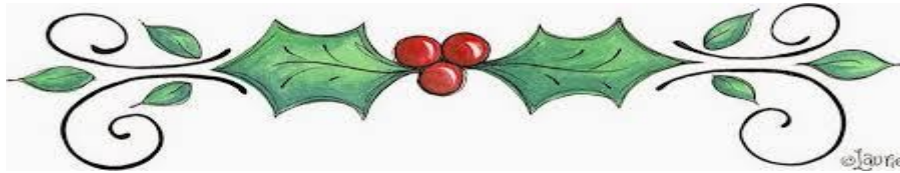
The Tower of Treats Raffle:

Well done to Leila and James who won the Tower of Treats donated by the PTA, Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA by buying raffle tickets.

Colour Raffle- Class Hampers:

This year, we would like to fill coloured hampers. Each class will be given a colour and we are asking for donations of items of that colour to put into their class hamper. If you have any donations for the colour raffle it would be greatly appreciated. For example - chocolates, wine, biscuits, bath bombs, etc but please do not send perishable goods in.

The deadline for donations will be Friday 10th December. The colour raffle will be drawn during the final celebration assembly on Friday, 17th December.



Please see below for the class colours.

Reception	Green
Y1	Gold
Y2	Silver
Y3	Red
Y4	Purple

Headteacher Awards: Well done to the following children:

26th November	3rd December
Reception - George for trying so hard to learn how to write his name.	Reception - Esmee for always being a kind and helpful member of our class.
Y1 - Olivia - Being kind and helping a friend.	Y1 - Archie for super effort with blending.
Y2 - Emily for fantastic contributions to class discussions.	Y2 - Freddie S for a fantastic attitude towards learning.
Y3 - Lilly for being so generous and caring	Y3 - Charlie for amazing story writing this week
Y4 -Joe - Having fantastic manners and producing high quality of work across all lessons.	Y4 -Fraser for amazing presentation and increased independence.

Good Work:

26th November	3rd December
Reception - Heidi for a great understanding of which two numbers add together to make 4.	Reception - Riley for fantastic number formation when writing number sentences.
Y1 - Ava- Super handwriting.	Y1 - Corey-Jo for fantastic writing on the line!
Y2 - Freddie H for fantastic presentation in maths.	Y2 - . Calum for fantastic number sentences in maths.
Y3 - Oliver for super use of commas after fronted adverbials	Y3 - Phoebe M for working hard to improve her story.
Y4 -Jason - Fantastic work in RE	Y4 -Mia for fantastic effort on her maths assessment.

Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:

26th November	3rd December
Y1 - Oli - Being tidy in class.	Y1 - Gabriel for good knowledge of part-whole models.
Y2 - Alfie for amazing effort and attitude to learning.	Y2 - Kaylin for being a kind friend to others.
Y3 - Brody for a positive attitude towards a difficult task during art day.	Y3 - ELiza for being super helpful and kind and helping others without being asked.
Y4 - Briannon- Always standing smartly and quietly in line. Being very helpful and enthusiastic in lessons this week.	Y4 - Max for a concerted effort to improve presentation and layout of work.

Dance Award: Y3: Isaac.K	Y4 : George.S
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Our Week in School:

Reception

Reception have had another fantastic two weeks at school, it has been very busy! Last week in English we started a new story called 'Little Red' which is an adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood. The children have loved exploring the book through role play and particularly enjoyed the apple themed tuff tray which was set up for Grandma! In maths, we have been exploring number bonds to five. The children are continuing to practise their number formation and I would be extremely grateful if this is something that could be practised at home too. To mark the beginning of Advent the children helped to decorate our classroom and had a surprise visit from an elf who delivered a special Santa cam to our room. We are so excited knowing that Santa is now watching! The children went to Church on Wednesday for their first Advent Mass and I was so proud of how they behaved, they were an absolute credit to our school. We are very much looking forward to getting involved in all the Christmas festivities over the next few weeks!





Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy few weeks as always. Last week we wrote our own story all about the baddies from *Send for a Superhero* destroying our school. We managed to use conjunctions and suffix words in the story too! In maths, we have been practising using our addition number sentences, with part-whole models, ten frames and counters to help us. In science, we have been looking at the weather and discussing what changes we can see now that winter is definitely here. We also had a visit from Kielder Observatory on Wednesday which was great fun. We looked at pieces of rock from asteroids, including some that came from the moon and even Mars! We also made bracelets with special beads that either glow in the dark or change colour with UV light, if you can see the beads turn purple you need to put some suncream on! Lastly, the Christmas Enterprise fair was a great success and we have purchased lots of lovely crafts for the christmas tree. Enjoy your hot chocolates and reindeer dust!

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed the first few days of advent, preparing for Jesus's birthday. Cuthbert class listened intently to God's Word during our Advent Mass and sang beautifully. In English, we have been learning about different suffixes and their spelling patterns. In maths, we have started our money topic and enjoyed identifying and naming the different coins and notes. In science, we did an experiment to see how we can save water at school and at home. We were also visited by astronomers from Kielder Observatory and had a fantastic time learning all about space. In geography, we learnt the names of the seven continents and surrounding oceans and seas. We enjoyed using the atlases to locate different places around the world. Cuthbert class particularly enjoyed attending the Christmas Enterprise fair and are looking forward to the last few weeks of the Autumn term. Well done year 2, keep up the super effort.

Year 3

We have been super busy this fortnight. We are preparing to receive the gift of Jesus at Advent and learning how to do this in RE and during Fr Luke's Advent Mass. We made a beautiful Jesse tree and learned about some of Jesus' ancestors. We finished the BFG book with some fantasy adventure story writing. We had an out of this world experience with the astronomers from Kielder Observatory who fascinated us with facts about light and the solar system and let us take part in some fabulous hands-on experiences. We enjoyed attending our Christmas Enterprise fair where we could purchase the handmade crafts and treats we had so much fun making at our art day last week.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy couple of weeks, we started our R.E. Advent topic called 'Gift' and made our own Advent calendars as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. We have been busy learning our Christmas songs for our whole school outdoor carol concert in the last week. Last Wednesday was 'Art Day', we sewed and cross-stitched our way through the day preparing our gifts for our Christmas Enterprise fair. On Tuesday this week we were visited by two astronomers from Kielder observatory who taught us all about light and the Solar System, the children learnt lots and even created their own 'scientific' bracelets to take home! This week we have begun our new English topic on the book 'FARThER' by Grahame Baker Smith and we have also started our multiplication and division topic in mathematics. Fantastic effort year 4!



Gospel

At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the desert. John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice cries in the wilderness; prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all people will see the saving power of God.'

Adapted from Luke 3:1-6

God Bless,

Mr P Naughton

