



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter Friday 2nd December 2022

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

All aboard! This week the children all had a journey on The Polar Express without even leaving the classroom! Everyone was issued with a ticket and a hot chocolate before starting on some fantastic work as part of our Arts Day on Wednesday. It was great to see so many of our parents and carers in school supporting the children in creating their Christmas crafts in readiness for our Christmas Craft Fair on Friday 9th December.



As we are now in our Advent season the children will have the opportunity to take home 'The Travelling Nativity' for the night. Inside the bag that the children take home there will be several items including a candle, a story of the first Nativity, purple cloth, a crib and a book called 'Tales of the Travelling Nativity'. The idea is to help us remember the journey Mary & Joseph made to Bethlehem, and as a family to take time together to think about the true meaning of Christmas. The children will be able to set up the crib and take a few moments to reflect on what Christmas means to them, before writing or drawing a picture about the night the Travelling Nativity was in their home. For families with multiple siblings at St. Mary's, it will be the youngest sibling that will take the Travelling Nativity home to share with the family. In school, we look forward to sharing the children's 'Tales of the Travelling Nativity' with the class each day!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



The RVI in Newcastle held a competition to design a Christmas card. The prize for the winner of the competition was to perform the Christmas lights switch on at the RVI with X Factor Star Joe McElderry on Wednesday night. Well done Lilly, (Y4) what an amazing experience!



Mission Statement Value Award Winners

Class			
Reception	Frankie H	Dani-Skye	Beauden
Year 1	Luca	Charlotte	Ashton
Year 2	Parker	Ava	Corey - Jo
Year 3	Ollie A	Jack H	Vinnie D
Year 4	Sebby R	Sophia	Marshall



Attendance Please remember that every day in school counts!	
Reception	90.5%
Year 1	88.2%
Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	99.2%
Year 4	86.3%



Santa Dash & Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 9th December

Children will take part in a Santa Dash fun run on the 9th December. All children are to come to school in their PE kit wearing their Christmas jumper. Children can add a little festive decoration on their head such as a Santa hat or a piece of tinsel etc. for the running events.

December E-safety focus

Our e-safety focus during December is Online Bullying. The children will take part in a range of lessons during December, learning what online bullying is, what to do if they are being bullied online and who they can get support from. Please find more information on how to support your child with online bullying by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Christmas Crafts Sale - Friday 9th December 3pm

The PTA, alongside the children of St. Mary's, are hosting a Christmas Crafts fair in the school hall. Children will be dismissed from school as normal on this day and can then return with their families to the hall via the fire door at 3pm, in order to purchase Christmas crafts, take part in the raffle and enjoy some tasty treats. Everyone is welcome!

Nativity Costumes

All children will have now received a letter detailing what they will need to bring into school to wear for our Nativity performance. Please can all clothes be brought into school by Monday 5th December in a named bag. If there are any questions or concerns please contact the school office.

Tickets for the Nativity performances will be sent out with the children next week.

Cauliflower Christmas Art

Please can all children who have placed an order for their Cauliflower Christmas Artwork bring a name carried bag into school next week. The art work has arrived and will be sent home with the children in their named carrier bag.



Jar of Hope

During the last week of term, we would like to create 'Jars of Hope' with children. Children will decorate an empty jar and fill it with their hopes for 2023. We would be grateful for any donations of clean jam/pasta sauce type jars. Any donations can be sent into the school office or handed to Mrs. Oakes at the school gate.

Christmas Cards-

We have a Christmas post box in school. If your child would like to send cards to their friends, please can the first name and the class of the recipient be written on the front of the envelope before posting in the post box.



Coats

Please ensure that your child attends school with a suitable warm coat to protect them against the winter weather.

PTA

The PTA will be collecting for the class coloured hampers again this year. Any donations of the following colours would be greatly appreciated, please bring them to the school office. This will be drawn during the Christmas Crafts event on 9th December.

RECEPTION	Yellow/Gold
Y1	White/Silver
Y2	Red
Y3	Green
Y4	Purple

Mini Vinnies

Our last Mini Vinnies meetings will take place after school on Wednesday the 7th December.

Application for First & Primary Schools: Applications for St Mary's RC First School, and other Northumberland First & Primary schools, are managed by the admissions team at Northumberland County Council. Online Admissions Portal for First and Primary school admissions will be open on the 1st of November 2022.

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

The deadline for your child's first & Primary school place is 15th January 2023.

PTA Film Night - Wednesday 14th December

The PTA are hosting a film night from 3pm - 4.45pm on Wednesday 14th December, where the children will be watching the Christmas film 'The Polar Express'. The tickets will be £3.00, if your child would like to attend then can we ask that you bring the money in a sealed, named envelope to the school office so the PTA can keep a record of all the children attending.



Dates for Diary:

Wednesday 7th December	Mini Vinnies meeting 3-4pm
Thursday 8th December	Wind in the Willows production workshops
Friday 9th December	Santa Dash & Christmas Jumper Day PTA Christmas Craft Fayre 3:10pm (School Hall) - All parents/carers welcome
Monday 12th December	Christmas Nativity - 1.30pm School Hall – Tickets required for entry
Tuesday 13th December	Christingle - 9.30am St. Mary's Church all parents/carers welcome Christmas Nativity - 1.30pm School Hall – Tickets required for entry
Wednesday 14th December	School Christmas Dinner Day PTA Christmas Film Night (Polar Express) 3.00 pm
Thursday 15th December	Queens Hall performance- Wind in the Willows Reminder - All payments need to be paid on Weduc by Friday 9th December to secure your child's place on the trip
Tuesday 20th December	Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 21st December	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party