



## St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 9th December, 2022



*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the corridors and classrooms have been full of song as the children prepare for our Christingle Service and of course our Nativity performances next week. Today we held our dress rehearsal in front of the children from St. Mary's Nursery and the children's performances were fantastic! Please can I take this opportunity to inform you that all attending our Nativity performances will need to present an actual ticket in order to gain access to the Nativity performances. Don't forget, on Tuesday 13th December at 9.30am the children are also taking part in a Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church, all parents and carers are welcome to join us.

On Thursday, each class took part in 'Wind in Willows' workshops run by artist Emma Sheridan.



Children in years 2-4 did some printmaking while children in Reception and year 1 made masks. All of the workshops were linked to *The Wind in the Willows*, in preparation for our visit to the Queen's Hall on 15th December. This afternoon, the children took part in the School Games Santa Dash. A national event to get children active and emphasise the importance of being active whilst also having lots of fun! It was great to see so many Christmas jumpers and Santa hats running around the field. Children who took part in the event have been rewarded their very own 'Santa Dash' medals to take home.



Finally, we ended the week with our Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members buying up the Christmas crafts that the children have made. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families that have donated items for the hampers and the PTA for all their hard work in helping to prepare and provide resources for this event.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

| Class     |  |  |  |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Reception | Frankie M   | Nathan  | Rafferty  |
| Year 1    | Miya  | Riley   | Kacey   |
| Year 2    | Archie  | Charlie   | Jessica   |
| Year 3    | Alfie   | Vinnie  | Jack H  |
| Year 4    | James   | Tommy   | Phoebe  |

| Attendance<br>Please remember that every day in school counts! |       |
|--|-------|
| <u>Reception</u>   | 91.4% |
| <u>Year 1</u>  | 97.8% |
| <u>Year 2</u>  | 90.5% |
| <u>Year 3</u>  | 96.0% |
| <u>Year 4</u>  | 87.0% |



### **Thankyou**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Churches Together in Hexham and Hexham Holiday Club for their kind donation to school. Using this donation, St. Mary's was able to purchase a number of Christmas and Christian themed books (currently displayed in our library), as well as some new cribs (& a story of the First Nativity books) that are currently being sent home with the children as part of our 'Travelling Nativity' throughout Advent.



### **Nativity**

Nativity tickets have been sent home with the children this week. Please note, you will be requested to present your actual ticket in order to gain access to the Nativity performances. Access to the Nativity performances will be through the hall fire exit door.

**We politely request that no filming or photographs are taken during the Nativity performances for safeguarding purposes. Please can all mobile phones be switched off and remain out of site throughout your time in school for these events.**

### **Swimming**

Please note there will be no swimming on Monday 12th December for years 3 & 4 due to the Nativity performance. Swimming will take place on the 19th December.

### **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.

**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](https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

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

### **Carol Singing**

On the last day of term-Thursday 22nd December Miss. McNamara and Mrs. Oakes will take a group of children carol singing at the local care homes. Parents of those involved will be informed prior to this event.

**Dates for Diary:**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday 12th December</b>    | <b>Christmas Nativity - 1.30pm School Hall - Tickets required for entry</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday 13th December</b>   | <b>Christingle - 9.30am St. Mary's Church all parents/carers welcome<br/>Christmas Nativity - 1.30pm School Hall - Tickets required for entry</b>                               |
| <b>Wednesday 14th December</b> | <b>School Christmas Dinner Day 3pm - 4.45pm<br/>PTA Christmas Film Night (Polar Express)</b>  |
| <b>Thursday 15th December</b>  | <b>Queens Hall performance- Wind in the Willows<br/><b>Reminder - All payments need to be paid on Weduc by Friday 9th December to secure your child's place on the trip</b></b> |
| <b>Tuesday 20th December</b>   | <b>Reception, Year 1 &amp; Year 2 Christmas Party</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 21st December</b> | <b>Year 3 &amp; Year 4 Christmas Party</b>  |
| <b>Thursday 22nd December</b>  | <b>Carol singing at care homes (select pupils only)</b>   |