

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 15 December 2016

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Pickering

Newsletter

Dear Parents

As we end this term I know that you are all looking forward to spending the Christmas break with your families.....it is a wonderful time to be together and celebrate the birth of Jesus. You will find Mass times and services at the Immaculate Conception over the Christmas period detailed on the attached card, sent from Fr John and the parish clergy.

Christmas Performances

I know that those of you who were able to come and see your children's Christmas performance were very impressed.....As I said on each occasion, I thank the staff for the extra work they have put in to make this time of year special for our children and, as always, thank you to you for rehearsing lines, songs and providing costumes.

Residential Reminders

- ◆ Year 4 Residential Visit to Manor Adventure 15th-17th March
- ◆ Year 5 Residential Visit to Grendon Outdoor Centre 22nd - 24th May
- ◆ Year 6 Residential Visit to Yenworthy Lodge 17th - 21st July

Staffing

At the end of this term Mr Fowler will be leaving us to pursue new opportunities. Miss Thompson, who has spent the last year travelling the continent of Africa will be returning to St Mary's to teach Year 3 - she is very much looking forward to coming back to us.

Les Cleeve, our Caretaker, is retiring after 4 years at St Mary's. I know that many of you have enjoyed chats with Les when you have been dropping off and picking up and I am sure you will want to wish him a happy and fulfilled retirement.

Two of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Conway are leaving and will be replaced by Chris West (whom many of you will know) and Mrs Kelly White who will both be starting with us after Christmas

School Choir

During this season, our School Choir have been very busy performing Carols and Christmas songs. They took part in 'Children Singing for Children' at St Edburg's Church, organised by the Rotary Club to raise money for good causes in this country and abroad.

They joined many Bicester schools at the turning on of the Bicester Christmas Lights and gave a wonderful performance. They sang Carols for the old people at Saxon Court and Hanover Gardens. They also entertained parents and parishioners at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Rance and Miss Grant for their hard work in preparing the children for those events.

Pastoral

Our two early morning Advent Masses were well attended and breakfast enjoyed by all..... Also, as part of our preparations during this liturgical season, the children in Key Stage Two were all able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Last week, pupils in Years 5 & 6 took part in the day of prayer in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Immaculate Conception.

I would like to thank Father John and Father Linh for the time they have given to enriching the spiritual life of our school community in so many ways.



St Mary's - a doorway to a life of love and learning in the light of Christ.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing 160 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children throughout the world who have so little. The gifts are on their way to refugees in Europe and Africa to make Christmas a special time for poor and disadvantaged children there. Well done!

The photograph above shows Miss Thompson, during her travels in Zambia last Christmas, when she was able to visit some children as they received their shoebox gifts.



Christmas Bazaar

Our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 3rd December was a great success - Father Christmas was kept very busy! Thank you to all those people who helped in any way towards its success, especially our stoic members of the PTFA who do so much work throughout the year to benefit our school. A profit of £2,400 was made which will benefit both School and Parish - Well done!

St Mary's Messenger

Members of the Newspaper Club have been working hard with Mrs Jinks to produce our latest issue of St Mary's Messenger. This is currently on sale for £1 and all proceeds go to The Baththula Care Trust. A very good read!

Sporting Events

A friendly Netball Match against Southwold School gave our team the opportunity to experience an actual match and use the skills they have practised in training. We hope to organise more fixtures for the new year.

Eight children in Upper Key Stage Two took part in a swimming competition against other schools in Bicester. They did very well - coming 3rd out of 12. Well done to all our wonderful swimmers!

School closes for the Christmas holiday tomorrow at 1.00pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas with your families....We will look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday, 4th January 2017.

P M Pickering
Headteacher

We're on the Web!
www.st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk