

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 19 December 2017

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Pickering



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 at the Immaculate Conception over the Christmas period detailed below.

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 too for rehearsing lines, songs and providing costumes.

Christmas Masses At the Immaculate Conception

- ◆ **Christmas Eve - Sun 24th December**
9.00am
11.00am
6.00pm
Carols 11.30pm
Midnight Mass 12 midnight
- ◆ **Christmas Day - Mon 25th December**
9.00am
11.00am
- ◆ **Boxing Day - Tues 26th December**
12 noon

Staffing

As you are already aware, Mrs Beale is leaving us to return to her family in America - our loss, being Pennsylvania's gain! Mrs Beale has worked with us for 3 years and during that time has given her all to St Mary's with enthusiasm and care.

She is to be replaced by Miss McDonald who has already spent time with the children in Year 5 getting to know them and planning the new term.

Mrs Wiley is also moving on to work in Banbury - closer to her home. Before Mrs Horton officially returns from her maternity leave on 5th February, she will work 10 days sharing the teaching in Early Years with Mrs Brown to complete the month of January.

I know you will join me in wishing both Mrs Beale and Mrs Wiley every happiness and success for the future.

School Choir

During this season, our School Choir have been very busy performing Carols and Christmas songs.

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 as well as entertaining parents and parishioners at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to Mrs O'Donnell for her hard work in preparing the children for those events.

Pastoral

Our two early morning Advent Masses were well attended and breakfast enjoyed by all..... Our Year six pupils attended the installation of Canon John at St Chad's Cathedral on 8th December - a wonderful occasion to be part of. The previous 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 Canon 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.



Christmas Bazaar

Our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 2nd 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.

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!

St Chad's Sanctuary

St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham is a voluntary project supported by many friends, including St Chad's Cathedral and The Salvation Army. It is a place of welcome and hospitality for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Immigrants. They greatly appreciate donations of food, hygiene items and clothing as well as financial help. Archbishop Bernard Longley has made an appeal for us to help the Sanctuary, so I am delighted that our Christmas Jumper Day raised £280 for this worthy cause.

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 Thursday, 4th January 2017.



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