

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter 19 December 2019

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Pickering

Newsletter

Staffing

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 and Hethe over the Christmas period detailed overleaf on page 3 of our Newsletter.

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.

We are pleased to be able to supply the links here to the EYFS and KS1 performances....

EYFS - Tiptoe Nativity

KS1 Play - The Inn Spectors

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs O'Donnell who will be returning to live in Ireland with her family and Miss Turczak who is also leaving and is planning to resume her global travels in the near future. We thank them both for their time at St Mary's and wish them well in all they do.

Mrs Wilding, one of our Teaching Assistants, has decided to take early retirement and we offer our best wishes to her also.

We have appointed Miss Clare O'Brien to teach in Year 1/2 and she has already been in to meet the children. Miss Victoria Jackson, who worked at St Mary's last year, will be working two days a week in Year 3 with Mrs Jeffrey. Miss Jackson has been covering for Mrs O'Donnell and has already got to know the children in her class.



Cross Country finalists



Sports News

It has been another good month for sport! The Year 5/6 football team played two friendly football matches. The second game was an improved performance and they have 7 games lined up ready for next year - four games for the girls and three games for the boys.

We had a Cycling Taster Day in November when EYFS, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils all experienced a cycling taster session. They took part in obstacle courses, races and cycling around tracks. It was a cold day, but they really enjoyed the experience and it has encouraged many children to cycle more and be more confident on two wheels!

In addition, the following children qualified for the Cross Country Athletics final, organised by North Oxfordshire Schools Sport Partnership and assisted by members of Bicester AC, - Felix Carey, Jessica Macleod, Thomas Andrade, Amber Busby, Kate O'Malley & Markus Moore.

Year 5/6 Football Team



Governing Body Communication to Parents

Dear Parents,

We trust that your children have settled in well to their new classes and have enjoyed this autumn term at St Mary's.

Last academic year we invited parents to complete an online questionnaire and we'd like to take the opportunity to respond to some of the points raised. First of all it was pleasing to see how many parents felt the school's faith teaching had a positive impact on their child's learning and that the majority felt that St Mary's was appropriately meeting the individual needs of their children.

A few parents felt that there was not enough information given about what the pupils are studying or what progress they are making. To this end we would like to remind parents that there are several points of contact throughout the school year where this information is shared, namely:

- transition evenings at the start of each key stage
- two parent teacher meetings each year
- a written report at the end of the summer term

In addition to this parents and guardians are welcome to discuss their child's progress at any time before or after school with the class teacher. With regards to knowing what work is currently being undertaken a Curriculum Letter and Map is shared with parents at the start of each term and is available to view on the school website; this work will be supported by the homework that is sent

home each week. The staff at St Mary's are committed to nurturing each and every child and we, as governors, are looking forward to working alongside them and you, the parents, to support all our children to succeed.

With very best wishes,

Your Governing Body



A Year of the Word

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as 'The God who Speaks': A Year of the Word to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Verbum Domini - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin.

Therefore, in our school and parish, 2020 will be a year of celebrating, living and sharing God's word, through a range of events, activities and resources.

Pastoral

Our three early morning Advent Masses were well attended and breakfast enjoyed by all.....we raised £85.00 for the Batthula Care Trust.

Lower Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the day of prayer for vocations attending Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Immaculate Conception.

I would like to thank Canon John and Father Rob for the time they have spent this term enriching the spiritual life of our school community in so many ways.



Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 30th November was a great success - raising almost £2,000. Thank you to all those who helped in any way towards its success - setting up, running stalls, providing food, clearing away.....your generosity is much appreciated.

School Meals

Please remember that the deadline to order meals from Fresh Start for the first week back in school, week beginning 6th January 2020 is **Tuesday, 31st December**. Pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free schools meals but these must also be ordered by the deadline.

Red Wednesday

This fund raising day on Wednesday, 27th November, raised £150 which went towards Aid to the Church in Need charity. This Christian Charity helps fund important projects which are undertaken by the local Church - Bishops, Priests, Sisters and lay people - in the 140 plus countries where they give aid.

Elf Day for Alzheimers

On Friday, 6th December children came dressed as elves or in their Christmas jumpers to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. This raised the sum of £170.00 which has been sent to the Charity.

Thank you all for your donations towards these charities.

PTFA Children's Take Over Raffle Results

1. Be Headteacher for a Day - **Cooper Knowles**
2. Extra Break for our whole class - **Malina Paczkowska**
3. Teach 1 Lesson to your class teacher in your seat - **Alice Sozzi**
4. Pick a lesson for your class - **Hal O'Flynn**
5. Read a book to another class - **Alexander Chipperfield**
6. Non Uniform Day for your class - **Toby Nugent**
7. Choose the pudding at lunch time - **Grace Bullivant**
8. Ice Cream or Pizza Party for your class - **Robert Kava**
9. Extra minutes play at lunch/break - **Jarlath Gaine**
10. Friday movie afternoon for your class - **Millie Grant**



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing 90 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!

Christmas Tree Festival



Some St Mary's families took part in decorating the trees at The Christmas Tree Festival at St Edburg's Church in Bicester. This was a lovely community event with eighty trees being sponsored and decorated by individuals, community groups and local businesses. Visitors had the opportunity to hang prayers and thoughts on the Prayer and Memorial Trees provided by the church. The Festival closed with the now well established "Carols in the Trees".

Christmas Masses At the Immaculate Conception & Hethe

- ◆ **Christmas Eve - Tues 24th December**
6.00pm (Bicester)
8.00pm (Hethe)
Carols 11.30pm (Bicester)
Midnight Mass 12 midnight
- ◆ **Christmas Day - Wed 25th December**
8.00am (Hethe)
9.30am (Bicester)
11.00am (Bicester)
- ◆ **Boxing Day - Thurs 26th December**
12 noon (Bicester)
Altar Servers renew their commitment and presentation of St Stephen's Medals.

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 Monday, 6th January 2020.

P M Pickering

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Headteacher