



St. Mary's News

16th December 2016



Welcome to our final newsletter of 2016. I can't believe that my first term as acting head teacher has come to an end and what a busy term it has been from Roald Dahl Week to British Values Week - from Sporting competitions to Christmas Plays - time has absolutely flown by. I am really enjoying my new role and the challenges that it brings and I am keen to continue moving the school forward, so that we are able to provide the best learning experiences possible for your children in a bright, safe and stimulating environment, where every child is encouraged to be the best that they can be. The staff and I are really grateful for all of the support that you have given to us during the Autumn Term and we look forward to your continued support. Have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you all in the New Year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Y4 children, along with Charlotte and Harry from Y6, made their First Confession in Church on Thursday 15th December at 2.30pm. It was a lovely Service of Reconciliation. The children read well and the singing was beautiful. Many thanks to our school choir who also attended the service to support our Y4 children.

Future dates for First Holy Communion sessions are:

Wed 18th Jan 2017

Wed 22nd Feb 2017

Wed 22nd March 2017

Wed 24th May 2017



Christmas Around the World

Join us in Church on Wednesday 21st December as Ellie May from Y5 takes us on a journey around the world to see how people from different countries celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our journey begins at 2.00pm and we should arrive back in England just after three. Upon our return we will take the children back to class to pick up their belongings and then we will dismiss them as soon as they are ready.

I promise that there will not be a collection bucket in sight 😊



Dates for Your Diary

- 21/12/16 Christmas Service in Church 2.00pm
- 21/12/16 School closes for Christmas Holidays 3.30pm
- 21/12/16 **Reminder** there will be no After School Club on the last day.
- 04/01/17 School reopens.

Dress Up Christmassy Day

On Monday 19th December we will be having a Dress Up Christmassy Day. For a £1 the children can come to school dressed up in a Christmassy way. Let your imagination run wild!



Photographs

Can we please remind everyone that whilst we have no objections to you taking photographs at plays etc we do ask that you don't put them on any social media websites.



Payments Due Next Term

For your information the following payments are due when we come back after the Christmas holidays:

- School meals - £63.00
- Fish & chip Fridays - £13.50
- KS2 toast - £5.60
- Reception snacks - £8.40
- Football with Mr McMinn - £20.00
- Guitars & recorders - £15.00

Reminder - ABC

Reminder that there is no After School Care Club next Wednesday, 21st December. Please make sure that someone collects your child at 3.30pm.

Choir

The choir have had a very busy week this week, both inside and outside of school.

Last Friday, some of the choir sang carols at the lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree. They sang beautifully and many local people commented upon how lovely they sounded. They really added a special touch to the celebrations.

On Wednesday the choir, and Mrs Connolly's guitar group, spent nearly an hour singing and playing to the pensioners who attended the Methodist Hall Christmas Dinner. The choir performed carols that included Not That Far From Bethlehem and The Twelve Days of Christmas - with a little audience participation from some very willing pensioners J. The guitar group sang and played carols that included Rudolph and Rocking Around the Christmas Tree,

On Thursday the choir sang at the Tesco Superstore in St Helens - raising money for our playground equipment. They collected a fantastic £154 in just one hour.

Following the trip out to Tesco, the choir then supported our Y4 class in their Service of Reconciliation in Church.

Finally to end a busy Thursday, the choir performed for a final time in front of their families in a Sing-a-Long after school. Mince pies and refreshments were served and everyone had a lovely evening.

The children have been an absolute credit, both to themselves and to the school and I am extremely proud of them. It is amazing how super talented our children are.

Mrs Taylor and I have also been astounded at the level of support that the school and choir have received from our families over the last week. It is a joy to perform in in front of such an appreciative audience. Thank you so much.



Christmas Plays

After all of the hard work rehearsing for the Christmas plays over the last few weeks, we can't believe that they are all over and done with for another year. All of the children (from those playing instruments and singing in the choir to the children who actually performed on stage) were wonderful and it is truly the best part of my job to see our children's talents shining through.

A big thank you to all of the staff and parent volunteers who have helped with the plays over the last few weeks. They have given up their time to work with the children and to ensure that all costumes and props are ready. Without this, it simply would not have been possible to put the plays on.



Reception Class



Year 2 'The Bossy King'



Year 6 'First Night'

Christmas Donations

A massive, massive thank-you to everyone who kindly donated to our collections at the end of the Christmas Plays. We collected a fantastic £681 in total. This, along with the money raised singing at Tesco, means that our total for the week is a fantastic £835. We are so close to our target of £1000 which we will hopefully manage to hit on Monday following Christmas Dressy Up Day. I can't thank you enough for your generosity.



	before school	lunchtime	after school
Monday		Zumba (starting 9th Jan)	Football (KS2) (starting 9th Jan)
Tuesday	Fun fitness (starting 10th Jan)		
Wednesday	Boccia (KS2) (starting 11th Jan)	Fencing (Rec & KS1) (starting 11th Jan)	Fencing (KS2) (starting 11th Jan)
Thursday	Fun fitness (starting 12th Jan)	Guitars KS2 Recorders Y2 Football (KS1) (all starting 12th Jan)	Choir (starting 12th Jan)
Friday	Gymnastics (KS2) (starting 6th Jan)	Gymnastics (Rec & KS1) (starting 6th Jan)	Dodgeball (KS2) (starting 6th Jan)

Goodbye and Good Luck

We say goodbye to Miss Brunt next Wednesday as she leaves us to start a new job. Miss Brunt has been a member of staff at St Mary's for over three years and we are going to miss her. We say thank you to her for all of her hard work and we send her our love and best wishes. She tells me that she won't be a stranger and that she is planning to join our staff on all of our celebrations.



