



St. Mary's News

1st December 2017



Christmas Plays

Isn't it amazing how quickly December comes around and what a busy time of year it is. The children are all busy rehearsing their Christmas Plays and they are really looking forward to performing in front of you all.

The Junior Christmas Play takes place on Wednesday 13th December. There will be two performances—one at 2pm and one at 7pm. Tickets are needed for each performance, as numbers are limited. A letter has been sent home to all Junior children with further details.

The KS1 Christmas Play (Year 1 and Year 2) takes place on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December at 2.30pm. Tickets are not needed for the KS1 play, but we ask that you only attend one performance in order to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to watch.

The Reception children will perform their own Christmas Play on Thursday 21st Dec at 2.45pm. Again tickets are not needed for this performance.

Unlike many schools, we do not charge for tickets, however some of our children will be shaking their buckets in front of you at the end of each performance. You were very generous with your donations last year and as a result we were able to buy our eagerly awaited basketball nets and climbing wall.

This year we would like to replace many of our old, very worn and very tired costumes—some of which have been here nearly as long as Mrs Hymers ! We would also like to buy a set of scooters and some outdoor play equipment for the children to use during break times in order to encourage active play.

Christmas Fair

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our families who supported the school at the Christmas Fair last Friday. We raised a fantastic £1, 575 in just over an hour and half. We are going to use the money to buy resources to enhance our new creative, topic based curriculum.



Selection Box Bingo

Our traditional Selection Box Bingo will take place on Friday 8th December at 3.45pm. It is always a fun filled, mad couple of hours, but everyone has a great time and it is a fantastic opportunity to raise money for the school.

As well as Bingo there will be an opportunity to Guess the Name of the Reindeer; Guess How Many Sweets are in the Jar and Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake . Light refreshments will also be on offer.

No tickets are needed. Simply pay on the door.





Lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree



The lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree takes place next Friday 8th December at the Public Hall on Pingot Road at 6 o'clock. The Mayor of St. Helens will be switching on the lights and there will be free refreshments for all. It is rumoured that Father Christmas will also be attending.



The winning posters from the 'Light the Billinge Christmas Tree' poster competition will also be on display. Class winners and an overall school winner will be announced shortly.

Billinge Christmas Tree Festival

Billinge will be hosting its first ever Christmas Tree Festival on Fri 8th, Sat 9th and Sun 10th December at St. Aidan's CE Church. Everyone is invited along to go and see the spectacular array of beautifully decorated trees promoting businesses and groups in Billinge and the local area. There will even be a tree decorated by our school.

Entrance to the event is free and any donations received will be divided between the churches/schools in Billinge and Pemberton Youth Band. Refreshments will be available.



Choir



Our choir will be performing on the opening day of the event—Friday 8th December at 1.30pm, so why not come along then and support our children as they sing. It would be lovely to see you all there.

Our Christmas Tree

We have been asked by the organising committee if we would like to decorate a tree to represent our school and its community. Mrs Hymers is keen to take part in the community event and is looking for any volunteers who would be willing to spend no more than an hour decorating our school's tree. The tree will be ready to be decorated on Thursday 7th December. She would be extremely grateful to anyone who could help.

School would also be grateful for any donations of tinsel, lights or baubles - blue or gold please—to represent our school colours. Many thanks.



Calling all Year 4 and Year 5 Children - A message from Lucy

Lucy is a past pupil from St. Mary's who now attends St. Peter's. She is working with a group of children to organise a fund raising Christmas Tea Party in aid of the Joining Jack charity. Jack is a young boy who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. There is no cure at the moment and the charity are raising funds to pay for research.

The Tea Party is being held on the 21st December from 4-6pm at St. Peter's High School. Tickets are available by ringing St. Peter's school office. You will be unable to buy tickets on the door. (This arrangement has changed since last week's newsletter.) The cost of the Tea Party is £5.00 per person or £17.50 for a family of four.

It would be lovely to see everyone there. There will be a chance to meet Father Christmas and to eat unlimited cake.



Holiday Dates for the Academic Year 2018–2019

Autumn Term 2018: School opens on **Tuesday 4th September 2018**

Closes for half-term on **Friday 19th October.**

School opens on **Monday 29th October**

Closes for Christmas on **Thursday 20th December**

Spring Term 2019: School opens on **Monday 7th January 2019**

Closes for half-term on **Friday 15th February**

School opens on **Monday 25th February**

Closes for Easter on **Friday 5th April**

Summer Term 2019: School opens on **Tuesday 23rd April**

Closes for half-term on **Friday 24th May**

School opens on **Tuesday 4th June**

Closes on **Friday 19th July**

We will send out new holiday cards after the Christmas holidays.

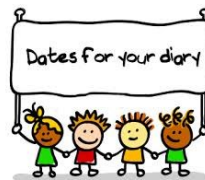


Diary of Events

- 8th Dec 17 - Christmas Bingo
 12th Dec 17 - Infant Christmas Play 2.30pm
 13th Dec 17 - Infant Christmas Play 2.30pm
 Junior Christmas Play 2.00 & 7.00pm
 19th Dec 17 - Christmas Pantomime
 20th Dec 17 - Christmas Carols in Church 2.00pm
 21st Dec 17 - Reception Christmas Play 2.45pm
 22nd Dec 17 - School closes for Christmas

Advance Notice—ABC Closure

ABC will be closed on the evening of **Wed 20th Dec**. Breakfast Club will be open as usual.



Clubs/Activities timetable for this term

	Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		Zumba	Football - KS2
Tuesday	Fun fitness		Y6 Play Rehearsal
Wednesday	Archery KS2	Dodgeball KS2	Dodgeball Rec & KS1
Thursday	Fun fitness	Football (KS1)	Y6 Play Rehearsal—cancelled Choir—cancelled Children singing at Parish Church
Friday	Basketball KS2	Basketball Rec & KS1	Handball KS2

Thought for the Weekend



The tongue has no bones, but it is strong enough to break a heart.

Be careful with your words !



Bucket Filling

Our bucket filling children this week are



Georgina from Y4. Miss Murphy nominated Georgina this week. She said that Georgina always volunteers to help others and nothing is too much trouble for her. Well done Georgina.

Heidi from Rec. Heidi has filled the buckets of children in other countries by helping them to go to school. Well done Heidi. What a lovely thing to do.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Y4 children will be making their First Confession on Thursday 14th December at 2.15pm in Church.

Families are welcome to attend the service.



Class Attendance

Reception - 98.09%

Year 1 - 96.34%

Year 2 - 98.82%

Year 3 - 97.67%

Year 4 - 97.30%

Year 5 - 96.03%

Year 6 - 97.78%

Well done to the children in Y2 who have the best class attendance this week.



Good Work

A huge well done to the following children who have all been recognised for their good work this week:

Year 1 - Jake H

Year 2 - Oliver

Year 3 - Libbie-May

Year 4 - Ava S

Year 5 - Amy W



Well done everyone!

House Points

	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Juniors</u>
Matthew	Harry	Thomas G
Mark	Harriet	Cameron
Luke	Kaitlyn	Ewan
John	Isla W	Charlie M

The overall winners were:

Isla W (Y1) & Thomas (Y4).

Well done everyone!

Lunchtime Stars

Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as our lunchtime stars for this week:

Reception - Alice

Year 1 - Isabelle

Year 2 - Jordan

Year 3 - Anna

Year 4 - Ava

Year 5 - Ella

Year 6 - Isla



House Points

Tea@2



Lots of chatter this week from Mrs Hymers' Tea@2 guests. The children are very excited about the weeks ahead as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Mrs Hymers' guests this week were Jessica (Rec), Sophie (Y1), Ava (Y2), Anna (Y3), Jamie (Y4), Chloe (Y5) and Ben (Y6). The children were also joined by two very special guests—Mrs Briers, who is retiring today and Mrs Webster, who popped in to say hello.

The children and staff had lots of positive things to say about school life. Both Mrs Webster and Mrs Briers said that the children were very lucky to come to such a great school and the children agreed. The children were very excited to hear about Mrs Hymers' plans to buy a set of scooters for the children to use at playtime and she also said that she would look into buying some new balls for playtime.

For Christmas Jessica would like a big bike as she is 4; Sophie would like a wobbly scooter; Ava has asked for a LOL Surprise Pack; Anna also wants a new bike; Jamie has asked for a picture of one of the reindeers; Chloe has asked for an iPhone 7 and Ben wants new Nike football boots.

The children spoke about their favourite TV shows and Ben said he really enjoys watching football. Mrs Webster asked if he had seen Everton play earlier in the week and Mrs Hymers said that he couldn't have done, as watching Everton is not watching football!

Jamie told the group that he had opened his Advent Calendar today and eaten all of the chocolates at one go!

The children were also very excited about the Christmas Plays especially Ava, who has been chosen to be Whoops-A-Daisy Angel.

Both Mrs Briers and Mrs Webster were very touched to be asked to join the children for tea and they really enjoyed chatting with them.



Happy Retirement Mrs Briers

We said goodbye to Mrs Briers today and wished her a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Briers has worked at the school for the last 17 years both as a midday supervisor and as a play worker in our ABC Club. During her time at St. Mary's, Mrs Briers has taken really good care of our children and has treated them as her own. The children and staff will miss her immensely. School will definitely be quieter without her !

We wish Mrs Briers a very long and happy retirement and we are certain that she will spend lots of her free time travelling - no-one enjoys holidays more than Mrs. Briers.

Happy Retirement!