



St. Mary's News

23rd November 2018



Christmas Plays

The Junior Christmas Play takes place on Wednesday 12th 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, containing further details, will be sent home next week and tickets will be given out week beginning 3rd December.

The KS1 Christmas Play (Year 1 and Year 2) takes place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December at 2.30pm. Please note this time may move to 2.15pm once a full run through takes place and timings are more accurate. 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. Doors will only open ten minutes before each performance.

The Reception children will perform their own Christmas Play on Thursday 14th Dec at 2.30pm. 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 always we have many different ideas on how we can spend the money. The school council will help us to decide! One suggestion has been new classroom games and Lego sets to use during wet playtimes and lunchtimes.

Lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree

Art Competition



A letter was sent home earlier in the week inviting the children to take part in an art competition to advertise the lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree on Friday 7th December at the Public Hall.

The competition is open to all of our children and prizes will be awarded to the best poster in each year group. This year each winner will receive a £15 gift voucher. The winning entries will be on display in the Public Hall.

There will also be a whole school winning poster and they will receive a £25 gift voucher. The winning poster will be displayed in Billinge Library.

Posters can be as imaginative as you wish and can be either A3 or A4 in size.

In order to be entered into the competition, posters need to be brought into school on Monday 26th November 2018 so that they can be collected for judging.

Christmas Pantomime

Tuesday 18th December

Instead of having our usual Christmas Parties this year, we have decided to have a whole school Christmas Pantomime instead, as many of our children don't enjoy the parties.

The PTFA have kindly agreed to fund half of the cost of the pantomime along with popcorn and juice for everyone. If your child is unable to have popcorn, please let the school know. We are asking for a donation of £2.50 per child to cover the remaining cost.

This year's Pantomime will be Jack and the Beanstalk.





Billinge Christmas Tree Festival



Following the success of last year's Christmas Tree Festival, St Aidan's CE Church are planning to hold another festival this year. An information leaflet was sent out earlier in the week detailing all of the fantastic events that they have planned. If you did not receive a leaflet, copies are available from the front entrance. The festival will run from Friday 14th Dec until Sunday 16th Dec. Times vary each day so it is important that you refer to the leaflet. Our school choir will be performing on Friday 14th December at 1.30pm so why not pop along and listen to them singing a collection of Christmas Carols—both old and new.

We have also been asked to decorate a tree to represent our children and the community of St. Mary's, so if you are able to go along why not take a look at our tree. All of our children will be represented on it.

A Community Christmas—An Invitation



We would like to invite our more elderly parishioners and other pensioners from the local community to join us for carols and refreshments on Wednesday 19th December from 10am -11am in our Junior Hall. Our choir will perform carols and some of our Y5 and Y6 children will spend time chatting with our visitors and serving refreshments.

We are really looking forward to the event and we hope that some of our local community can come along and spend time with our children. We think that it is really important that our community comes together, particularly at Christmas time, as it can be a lonely time for some and it will be wonderful opportunity for our children to spend time talking to our more elderly residents.

Please do try to come along and please extend our invitation to those pensioners who may not receive our newsletter. We are looking forward to meeting you all and can promise you a very warm St. Mary's welcome.



Christmas Fair

The club have now kindly agreed to let school use their function room for the Christmas Fair so we do not need to use school as previously stated. Doors will open at 3.45pm. All of our usual stalls will be open and we will be having a special visit from Father Christmas. Please come along and support this event as it is a great way to raise money for school. Our choir will also be performing at the fair.

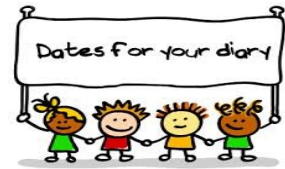
We will be having a final non uniform day on Thursday 29th November in exchange for toiletries. Can we please also ask for donations of cakes/biscuits to sell at our refreshment stall. Many thanks.



First Holy Communion Meeting

The third session of our Sacramental Programme, With You Always, will take place on Wednesday 28th November at 6pm in the Infant Hall. It is essential that children attend the session as the session will prepare the children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 13th Dec at 2.15pm.

Wed 28th Nov 2018	First Holy Communion Session 3
Thurs 29th Nov 2018	Flu Spray Day
Fri 30th Nov 2018	Christmas Fair
Mon 3rd Dec 2018	Rec and Year 6 Heights and Weights
Thurs 6th Dec 2018	Christmas Movie Night 3.30—5.45pm Wear your Christmas Pyjamas or Christmas clothes to school
Tues 11th Dec 2018	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play 2.30pm
Wed 12th Dec 2018	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play 2.30pm Key Stage 2 Christmas Play 2.00pm and 7.00pm
Thurs 13th Dec 2018	Y4 First Confession in Church 2.15pm Families welcome
Fri 14th Dec 2018	Reception Christmas Play 2.30pm
Fri 14th Dec 2018	Selection Box Bingo 3.45—5.15pm
Tues 18th Dec 2018	Christmas Pantomime for the children—Jack and the Beanstalk
Thurs 20th Dec 2018	Christmas celebration in Church 2.00pm. Families welcome Break up for Christmas.
Mon 7th Jan 2019	Return to school after the Christmas Break



Activities this half term

	Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Monday		Zumba	Football KS1 & KS2
Tuesday	Fun fitness	KS2 Mindfulness	Indoor Athletics Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday	KS2 Archery Spaces available	KS2 Handball—spaces Y3 beginner guitars	Rec & KS1 Archery
Thursday	Fun fitness	Y4/5/6 Guitars Y2 recorders	Choir
Friday	KS2 Basketball	Rec & KS1 Basketball	KS2 Lacrosse



Christmas Movie Night

Our PTFA will be holding their first ever Christmas Movie Night on Thursday 6th December in the Infant Hall. The movie being shown is ELF.

Tickets will go on sale on Monday the 26th November at the school office and cost £5. The ticket entitles your child to entry into the movie and a bucket of popcorn (or crisps) and a drink.

Tickets are limited so buy early to avoid disappointment.

The movie will run from 3.45pm until 5.30pm. Adults do not need to attend as the children will be supervised by the PTFA and members of staff. Children who are attending the movie will be collected from class and taken to the Infant Hall. They can then be collected from the side door of the Infant Hall at 5.30pm.

All children can come into school in their pyjamas that day—the more Christmassy the better!



Selection Box Bingo

Our traditional Selection Box Bingo will take place on Thursday 14th 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. No tickets necessary. Simply pay on the door—£3 for 1 book of 6 games or £5 for 2 books.



As well as Bingo there will be opportunity to Guess the Name of the Reindeer and Guess the Name of the Elf. Light refreshments will also be on offer.

Bucket Filling

Our bucket filling children this week are



Miss Wood's Bucket Filler is Maya. Miss said that Maya is always kind and she always offers to help with jobs around the classroom.

Miss Parr has chosen Andrew from Y1 as her Bucket Filler. Miss Parr says that Andrew always tries his very best—even when the work is hard.

Thought for the Weekend

Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you



Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you.





Tea@2 with Key Stage 1



Isla, Evan, Molly, Howie, Sophia and James joined Mrs Hymers for afternoon tea this week and they were all very keen to share their thoughts with her. The children all told her that they enjoy school and are happy at St. Mary's. Sophia and Molly love to play outside whilst Howie prefers to play inside with the trains. Evan and James enjoy Maths and Isla loves to write. Most of the children have school dinners and they all said that Spaghetti Bolognese was their favourite. The children shared their favourite books with Mrs Hymers—who loves to read herself. (She read 8 books whilst on her two week summer holiday!) Sophia's favourite story is Jack and Beanstalk; Evan likes the Twits; Isla loves The Diary of a Wimpy Kid; Molly enjoys princess stories and Howie loves to listen to dinosaur stories. James doesn't really have a favourite



book. Some of the children then talked about what they have enjoyed the most in school so far and others talked about what they were looking forward to. James and Evan really enjoyed Scoot Fit man and Molly can't wait to see this year's pantomime.

The children ended their time with Mrs Hymers by telling her what they had asked Father Christmas for. Howie would like a Monster Truck that can drive across the water; Molly has asked for a Baby Annabell that can walk and swim; James doesn't know what to ask for, so is going to have a think; Evan would love an iPod and a scooter and Sophia really wants a toy unicorn. Isla told Mrs Hymers that she doesn't want any presents as her family are having a 'Homemade Christmas' - her family are going to make presents for each other and then they are going to wrap them up to give out on Christmas Day—What a lovely idea!

Mrs Hymers really enjoyed talking to the children and she loved listening to their news.



A Thank You from Billinge 25th Scout Group



Billinge 25th Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone in the Wigan and St. Helens area for their community donation from the Co-op. The group received a fantastic £8013.75p!



Advanced Notice of ABC Closure—After School Club



Our After School Club will be closed on the evening of Wednesday 19th December. Breakfast Club will be open as usual.

