



# St. Mary's News

## 30th 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, has been sent home this 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 **2.15pm. Please note this time has been moved to a slightly earlier start following a full run through this week.** 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 Friday 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

Many thanks to those children who entered this annual competition. As always we were really impressed with your entries. The judges have been into school and have chosen a winner from each class. Winners will remain a secret until the judges visit the school to award the prizes.

#### Lighting of the Billinge Christmas Tree

The Billinge Christmas Tree will be lit on Friday 7th December at the Public Hall on Pingot Road at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Free refreshments will be available and there will be a special visit from Father Christmas.

The event will be also attended by the Mayor of St. Helens.



### 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.

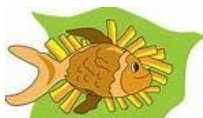


### Christmas Fair

A great big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard today to help set up for the Christmas Fair. We are sure that everyone will have a great time, We will let you know how much money we raised in next week's newsletter.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Year 4 children will make their First Confession on Thursday 13th December at 2.15pm in Church. All of their families are invited to attend the service. The school choir will also be attending. We look forward to seeing you all there.



### Fish and Chips/Pizza and Chips Thursday

As a special one off, cook will be having a Fish and Chips/Pizza and Chips Thursday on Thursday 20th December whilst we break up for Christmas on that day. If your child would like to have a school lunch on that day please send in £2.35 to the school office.





### Billinge Residents Association Christmas Party

Billinge Residents Association are holding a Christmas Party at Chapel End Labour Club on Sunday 2nd December. They have a few free tickets left if anyone would like to attend.



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

The Christmas Movie Night has proven to be a very popular event and all tickets have now been sold. We are sorry to have disappointed some of the children, but we have limited the tickets to 100 so that the children have room to lounge whilst watching ELF. If we were to admit more children then they would have to sit up straight in rows—like they do in assembly—and as you will all agree—there is no fun in that!



Due to the popularity of the event, the PTFA will hold another Movie Night in the Spring term so look out for further details.

Whether you have a ticket or not, everyone is welcome to come to school on that day in Christmas Pyjamas or Christmassy Clothes. If you are going to the movie then you are also welcome to bring a pillow/cushion into school so that you will be extra comfy during the movie.

### Selection Box Bingo

Our traditional Selection Box Bingo will take place on Friday 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 a Christmas Raffle and an opportunity to Guess the Name of the Reindeer and Guess the Name of the Elf. Light refreshments will also be on offer.



Mrs Hymers has chosen Hope, Georgina, Lila and Kate as her Bucket Fillers. The girls gave up their lunchtime this week to help Mrs Hymers fold raffle tickets for the Christmas Fair. It was hard work folding 2000 raffle tickets so a big well done girls. You all worked really hard and you saved Mrs Hymers hours of her time. What super stars you are.

*No-one is born happy  
But everyone is born  
with the ability to create  
Happiness !*



### Thought for the Weekend

