



## St. Mary's News

18th December  
2020

### Happy Christmas Everyone

We can't believe that the Autumn Term has come to end - how quickly the time has gone by!

It has been a very different start to the school year, but the children have settled back quickly into school life and it has been lovely to see them so happy - playing and laughing with their friends and working so hard in class.

No doubt we will have more challenges to face over the next few months but, as always, we will do all we can to keep you informed of any new guidelines or procedures that are announced and we will do our utmost to keep all members of our school community as safe as we possibly can.

Our staggered starts and ends will continue in January, as will the need to wear masks whilst dropping off and collecting children. Allocated gates and times will remain the same as in the Autumn Term and we ask that our Reception children are left at the gate at morning drop off.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this year. We really believe that St. Mary's is a truly happy place to live, love, learn and work together and this is without doubt partly due to the wonderful support that we receive from you all.



### Reception & KS 1 Nativities And KS2 Sings the Christmas Story



Our Infant Nativities and Junior Carol Concert are undergoing their final edits and will be ready for you all to enjoy the Christmas Story—told in 3 very different ways - from the comforts of your homes on Christmas Eve.

It was very disappointing not to be able to invite you all into school, and Church, as we usually do - but we hope that you enjoy the performances as much as we did when we saw them for the first time.

All of our children performed amazingly and we are immensely proud of them.

Yes they are very different performances than in previous years, but we feel that they are even more special and just as memorable.



### Christmas Eve Children's Mass

The children's Christmas Eve Mass will begin at 6.00pm. Children can attend Mass dressed in a Nativity Costume; Christmas Jumper or their Christmas Pyjamas (so that they are ready for bed). A very special visitor will also be dropping by at the end of Mass, before he begins his travels around the world. Registers have been passed on to Fr Paul, so please don't attend the Mass unless you have booked a place through school, as Church will be at full capacity, due to the restrictions placed on numbers by COVID-19.



## Countdown to Christmas Hamper Raffle Congratulations to our final Raffle Winners!

Sunday 13th December: Eimear C c/o Bronagh Y5

Monday 14th December: Scarlett (Y2)

Tuesday 15th December: Emma S c/o Molly and Erin

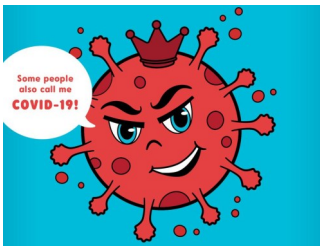
Wednesday 16th December: Eliza (Rec)

Thursday 17th December: Malachy (Y3)

Friday 18th December: Lucy S (Y6)

Well done to all of our winners and a final big thank you to everyone who donated gifts and to everyone who bought raffle tickets. You have all helped to make our Christmas Raffle a super success.

## Procedures for Reporting Positive COVID cases over the Christmas Half-Term

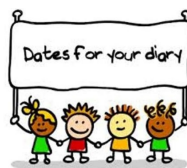


As we break up for the Christmas Holidays, we have been asked to inform parents/carers of the procedures to follow should you need to report a positive case amongst your family after school closes on the 18th December.

1) If your child tests positive for COVID-19, **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, it is essential that you email school on [stmaryrcbp@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:stmaryrcbp@sthelens.org.uk) to notify us of the positive test. School will then assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individuals may have been infectious whilst in school. This is the same procedure that all staff will also follow. School's email account will be monitored from close of school on Friday 18th Dec until 5.00pm on Christmas Eve.

2) If your child, or a member of staff, tests positive, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the **school should not be contacted**. Parents/carers and staff should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

## Important Dates for the New Year



School Re-opens: Tues 5th Jan 2021

School Closes for Feb half term: Fri 12th Feb 2021

Spring Term Parents' Evenings: Wed 3rd and Wed 10th Feb 2021. (3.50pm—6.30pm)

Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

We do hope that we are able to meet with you in person, but if not then Parents' Evenings will take place either over the telephone or via Microsoft Teams.

## Charges for the Half-Term Jan—Feb 2021

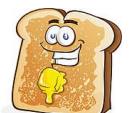
For those of our families who like to pay in advance for school meals and snacks, costs for Spring Term 1 are:

Lunches—£71.05

Fish/Pizza Friday—£14.70

Toast - £8.70

Payment can be made through your School Money account.





## Extra Curricular Clubs

Clubs after the half term are as follows:

**Wednesday** 3.30pm—4.30pm Glow in the Dark Sports Y5

**Friday** 8.00am-9.00am Nerf Club Y3 **and** 3.30pm—4.30pm Glow in the Dark Sports Y1.

Children in Y1 and Y5, who had already paid for a place in the club that was cancelled due to the tighter restrictions put in place last half term, have automatically been added to the new club registers. There are still a few places left in each of the clubs. If your child would like to join, let the office staff know and they will add a payment stream to School Money for you. Clubs start the first week back after Christmas.



## And Finally - A Note of Thanks from Mrs Hymers



I want to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff at St. Mary's who have worked tirelessly since September to ensure that our school is a safe and happy learning community. Our cleaning staff have gone over and above in keeping our classrooms; our toilets and common touch points and surfaces clean and sanitised; our cook and her assistants have continued to prepare a wide selection of healthy meals under more challenging circumstances; our midday supervisors have risen to the challenge of organising meals within classroom settings and have worked hard to keep the children entertained during the staggered lunchtimes; our office staff have taken on new roles as gate keepers and have worked hard to keep you all up to date with things that are happening in school; our teaching assistants have stepped in to cover absences and have taken on midday supervisor roles when we have been short staffed and finally our teaching staff, who have worked tirelessly to quickly identify any gaps in learning and to plan and deliver interventions in order to close these gaps —whilst at the same time managing home/school learning in addition to their daily teaching role and workload. It is safe to say that every single member of staff is tired and is more than ready for a well deserved break. Without their commitment and dedication to our children, our school would simply not be the great place that it is. Together, the staff have ensured that our children have continued to flourish, smile and shine in what has been the most difficult and challenging Autumn Term of my 29 years at St. Mary's. I simply could not have done my job without the support of the super team I have around me.



Have a lovely Christmas and we hope that Father Christmas brings you all that you hope for.

Stay safe everyone and we will see you all in 2021.

### Thought for Christmas



When you have  
Christmas in your  
HEARTS  
It doesn't matter  
What's under the tree!

