



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love
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No. 146

27/11/17



ADVENT MASS (Thursday 7th December 2.15pm) Advent starts on Sunday 3rd December. This means there are 4 weeks before the Feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The whole school will be celebrating the beginning of the Advent season in school with Fr Martin and all members of our community are very welcome to come along – even those among you who are not Catholics. We promise you don't have to do anything at all except sit and watch and listen.

ADVENT WREATH Mrs Conway will be making our Advent Wreath for the end of this week and we will be lighting the first candle on Friday morning in our assembly.

ADVENT PRAYERS All members of our community are very welcome to join us at 8.45am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for prayers, as we prepare ourselves for Christmas. We will start on Monday next week.

FIRST CONFESSION PROGRAMME There will be a meeting for parents of all children in Y3 and above wishing to make their First Confessions this year, on **Monday next week (4th December) at 7pm**. It is very important that any children wishing to receive this Sacrament is represented by an adult at the meeting.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE The school will be holding a Christmas Fayre from **3.30pm to 5pm on Friday 15th December**. We hope you will come along and support our efforts to raise some extra money for school – to be spent on your children. Please note that children will not be allowed into the Fayre on their own and have to be accompanied by an adult.

KS1 NATIVITY: TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER – (2pm) All members of the school community are invited to come along to this annual performance telling the story of Christmas!!

CHOIR The Choir will be in action at the Catholic Club on **Tuesday 28th November** (tomorrow) from 2.30pm. They will be entertaining some of the senior citizens of the parish for about 20 minutes. They will also be involved in our Bag Packing efforts and Carol Singing at Tescos on the **5th of December** and at the Savile House Care Home on the **19th December at 11am**.

OPEN DAY Our school will be open to all visitors on Thursday (30th) this week from 9.30am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. We particularly invite parents of prospective Reception 2018 children to come along and watch us in operation. This will be a normal Thursday, with no special events planned beyond the things we would usually get up to on a Thursday.

OTHER FAITHS WEEK During this week KS1 children will be learning about Judaism and how Jews worship God and celebrate their Faith. KS2 children will be learning about Islam. If you are able to help with resources please let us know.



CHRISTMAS DINNER (Wednesday 13th December) We will be serving a traditional Christmas Dinner in school on this day. Any children who want to join us at a cost of £2 per meal should **let the school office know by Wednesday 6th December**. Unfortunately we are unable to accept bookings for this meal after the deadline.

NON-UNIFORM DAY – Friday 1st December..... We would very much appreciate children bringing items that could go in a luxury Christmas Hamper in lieu of having to wear their school uniform. These hampers will be made up and raffle tickets will be sold for them leading up to the end of term. Examples of items to donate: Luxury tinned meats, pickles, wine, sherry, sparkling wine, tinned pate or jars of preserves, dates, chocolates, Christmas crackers, etc.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

ST ANDREW'S FEAST DAY Children with Scottish family connections are welcome to come to school on Thursday 30th November dressed in something to commemorate their Patron Saint's Feast Day. Something blue and white? Some tartan? A kilt!! Some heather or a thistle? A flag face paint on your face?



SAFEGUARDING SLOT!! We will be sharing some of the ways in which we protect your children in this regular item in our Newsletter from now on.

- **Who is the DSL at St Mary's?** Every school has a person responsible for safeguarding and our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) is Mr Brennan. He is responsible for all Child Protection and Safeguarding in our school. Mr Brennan is supported by Mr Tomkinson (Deputy DSL), Mrs Pollard (Nurture and Safeguarding Worker), Mrs Dyson (SEN Leader) and of course all other members of staff.
- **Who is the Governor responsible for Safeguarding?** Mr Steve Woodhead is the Governor responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- **When was the last time all staff received Safeguarding Training?** All our staff received a full day of Safeguarding Awareness training on the 5th September 2017.



DEFIBRILLATOR The machine is now in place for use by anyone in and out of school during the week and during working hours. We have decided – after taking some further advice – that we will move the secure box to a location outside the school gates in the near future so that this life saving tool can be accessed 24hrs a day by anyone who needs it.

CHILDREN IN NEED TOTAL Thank you for the donations made towards Children In Need. The total raised at St Mary's was **£125.14**. Well done!!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ST MARY'S PARISH CENTRE The Parishioners of St Mary's are holding this seasonal community event next Saturday (11am – 3.30pm). A 'special old gentleman with a white beard' will definitely be there and of course there will be lots of things for you to buy and do. Many parents will be aware that the Church needs a new heating system and the parish will be focussing a great deal of effort on the objective of raising £100,000 over the next few years to get this vital work completed. Please come along and support this huge effort!

PTA CHRISTMAS FILM NIGHTS KS2 Film Night is on **Friday this week after school**. The KS1 Film Night is on Friday 8th December. A PTA letter has gone out about these two events as well as the **Secret Santa Shop on Monday 11th December**.

HOLLY LYNCH MP Our local MP will be dropping into school on Thursday this week to announce the winner of her Official Christmas Card Competition. The winning design will be printed professionally on Holly's Parliamentary Cards and will be sent to lots of very important people!!

UKELELE CONCERT Mrs Roe's class have been learning to play Ukelele's this term. They will showing off some of the pieces they have learnt on the **12th December at 9.10am**.

Y4 RETREAT All Y4 children will be going to the Good Shepherd Church in Mytholmroyd on 14th December all day to do lots of fun activities linked to Advent. They will use public transport and a letter about the details will come to you soon.