



St Mary's RC Primary School Newsletter Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and keeping safe.

As Advent begins this Sunday, so does our preparation for the birth of Christ and, with this in mind, I would like to share some of the things that are happening in school during this wonderful, festive season. Obviously, things are going to be very different than usual due to the distancing measures that are in place. However, we have tried to put together a calendar of events which will mark our Christmas countdown in as best a way as is humanly possible!

Gift Team Celebrations

We would normally send home crib figures to every family for a night, so that you can reflect on The Nativity as a family. Due to current restrictions, we are unable to do this, however, the GIFT Team are releasing weekly Advent reflections on our website, which I encourage you to watch and join in with your children. Each week will focus on a different element of Advent. These will begin next week, so please visit the website to find them. They will be found in the GIFT Team section, under the 'pupil's area' tab.

Christmas Raffle

This year we will be holding a raffle to win a Luxury Hamper to raise money for Middleton Food Bank. Details of how to purchase tickets will be available at a later date.

Langley to Lapland

Firstly, during the week commencing Monday 7th December, we are attempting to run 1377 Miles, the distance by aeroplane from Langley to Lapland. Throughout the week children in KS1 and KS2 will run 4 miles (a mile a day on the Astro Turf) with EYFS will joining in on Friday 11th. The Final Mile for each child will be on Friday 11th December which is National Christmas Jumper Day. Children can wear own clothes on this day with Christmas Jumpers and / or Santa Hats. We will be updating the progress we are making as a school each day on the school website and Twitter, to let everyone know how many miles we have left to reach Lapland. To mark this, on Friday 11th we will be asking for donations to Middleton Food Bank. Items such as tins, dried pasta, biscuit and other food products with a long shelf life.



Christmas Music Concert

On Wednesday 16th December, we would like to invite you to our remote Christmas Music Concert, which will showcase our children's wonderful musical talents with songs and pieces they have been learning in music lessons in class. We are not permitted to have a large gathering, particularly one that involves singing, so everything will have been pre-recorded. It would be lovely if you could join us, via a zoom link which we'll send you nearer the time. It will begin at 1.30pm.



Christmas Parties

It is tradition for us to have a Christmas Party every year. Understandably, we are not permitted to do this at the moment, so instead we will have a Christmas Fun day on Tuesday 15th December. The children will be allowed to come in wearing their own clothes, which, of course can be festive! There will be Christmas activities in class, with music and a film. Instead of a Christmas dinner, we will be having a Christmas festive packed lunch on the same day (Tuesday 15th December). If your child normally has a school dinner, there is no need to do anything, they will get their dinner as usual. If your child usually has a packed lunch and they would like the school festive one instead, you must order it by returning the slip from the letter which your child will bring home. All Infant meals are all free, Junior meals (if you are not entitled to Free School Meals) are £2.20 each.

Remote Carol Service

On Thursday 17th December, at 1.30pm, we will have our remote carol service. Again, this will be available via a zoom link, which we will provide. This will be a time for reflection on the true meaning of Christmas through the re-telling of the Nativity.

EYFS Nativity Performances

Due to Covid restrictions the EYFS Nativity Performances will be pre-recorded and posted onto the school website on Tuesday 15th December 2020.

Christmas Cards

Many children have asked if they are allowed to bring in Christmas cards this year. We have decided they CAN bring them in, however, they will need to be in by Friday 11th December. We will then keep them in school until Friday 18th December, when they will be given out. This is to reduce the risk of infection. Please do not send your child in with a card any later than the 11th.

Christmas Finish Times

School will close on Friday 18th December at 1.30pm. PLEASE NOTE the early finish time as we don't want the situation where a few children are left waiting, having not been picked up. The times are:

Years 1, 2 and 3 – 1.15pm
Years 4, 5 and 6 – 1.30pm
Reception – 1.15pm
Nursery – 12.00pm



It goes without saying that this is not the way we would want to celebrate this season with the children and yourselves, however, we will endeavour to make it as joyous and happy as we possibly can! As always, thank you for your continued support!

God Bless,

S. Geddis

Mrs S Geddis
Headteacher