



St Mary's R C Primary School, Clive Road, Failsworth, Manchester M35 0NW

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Head Teacher: Ms M Garvey

December 2018

Dear Parents,

Last Sunday marked the beginning of the third week of Advent. We lit the Rose Candle which reminds us to rejoice as the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ is drawing near. I have to say that there has been joy in abundance this week with Christmas parties on Monday and Tuesday. The younger children were delighted when a very special visitor arrived and reminded them to be good girls and boys and to go to sleep early on Christmas Eve!



The Early Years Christmas Craft morning was once again a huge success. It was lovely to see so many parents getting involved. In fact, I think some of the parents enjoyed the activities more than the children!

The children in Y5 and Y6 had a wonderful time last week designing and making their cakes for The Bake Off Competition. Their designs were truly inspirational with Winter Wonderlands, Ginger Bread Houses, Nativity Scenes and Kevin the Carrot to name but a few. The winner this year was a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings by Lewis, Eve, Ruby Georgia and Nieve. Well done to everyone for taking part.



Congratulations to our musicians in Year 4 for bringing Christmas cheer to us on Friday morning during the brass band concert. The children have been learning to play an instrument together each Monday afternoon and treated us to a hugely entertaining performance. Well done to the children in Year 5 who performed at the concert. Those children started to play last year and chose to continue their lessons during their lunchtime each week; a testament to their perseverance and commitment to learning to play an instrument.



A special mention to the children in Year 1 and 2 who have been enjoying Forest School this term. They have been outside in rain and shine. They wrapped themselves up and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of learning in an outdoor environment. This evening the after school group ended the term on a high, toasting marshmallows over a fire they had just made. What more could one ask for?



On Friday morning, why not join us in the Key Stage One hall at 8.30am to celebrate Mass together. This is a lovely opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. You and your family would be most welcome.



Attendance figure to date is 96.7% this is up by 0.5% on the same period last year, however there is an increase in pupils arriving late to school. This term 18,288 minutes of lost learning time has been missed, this is equal to 305 hours, approximately 55 school days. Arriving late to school does have an impact on a child's learning. School offer a breakfast club facility, this starts at 8.15am everyday and gives every child the opportunity to be prepared and ready to start the school day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who work so hard to make our school such a special place. Thank you to the Friends of St Mary's who give up so much of their time providing lovely events in and outside of school; to the staff who plan and provide an exciting curriculum and continually go the extra mile; to the Governors who work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that I am held to account and that school continues to go from strength to strength and of course Father Michael and Father John who support the whole school, community in our faith journey, leading us closer to God.

Finally, a special thank you to you for your continued support and kind words this year. I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and a holy Christmas.

Ms Garvey

Diary Dates:

Fri 21 st Dec	Advent Mass KS1 hall 8.30am Christmas Jumper Day School closes 1.30pm
Mon 7 th Jan	School Opens
Sun 20 th Jan	Sacramental Meeting in school after 9.30am Mass
Sun 27 th Jan	Presentation Service for Y3 1pm in Church
Fri 15 th Feb	School closes for half term

Stay With Us Lord On Our Journey