



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's RC Primary School

January 2016 Newsletter



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Mrs. Graham - Acting Head Teacher:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and were able to enjoy the holiday time with your children. The staff and I would like to sincerely thank you for your very kind cards and gifts that you sent to us at Christmas. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness at what is a very expensive and busy time of year. We wish you all a very Happy New Year and pray that 2016 is a healthy and good year for all of us in our school community.



Dates for your Diary



- School closes for half term on Thursday February 11th 2016 at 3.30 p.m. as Friday 12th February is an in-service day for all staff.
- School re-opens on Monday 22nd February 2016 from 8.45 a.m.
- School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday March 24th 2016 at 3.30 p.m.
- School re-opens for the summer term on Monday 11th April 2016 from 8.45 a.m. (Easter is early this year).
- Monday May 2nd 2016 is a Bank Holiday so the school will be closed
- Week beginning Monday May 9th 2016 is testing week for Y6 pupils- please note that no leave of absence will be authorised for Year 6 pupils before or during this week.
- Summer half term holiday begins on Friday 27th May 2016 at 3.30 p.m.
- School re-opens on Monday June 6th 2016 from 8.45 a.m.
- School inset day 17th of June 2016
- School closes for the summer holiday on Wednesday the 20th of July 2016



Pope Francis invited us to enter a year in which we can seek out and show mercy. He announced that a Jubilee Year of Mercy would begin for the whole Church during Advent and it started on Tuesday 8th December. The children were introduced to this theme at our Friday Youth Liturgy in school on November the 22nd. Miss Burn has already begun preparations with our Mini Vinnies and established a TEAM - (Tell Everyone About Mercy) who will meet to discuss our planned Good Samaritan Week, liturgies, visiting the Cathedral and how our parents and carers can become involved. The Year of Mercy is an invitation to show love, kindness, and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis has said, 'A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.' It is hoped that during this year we will be contributing to this mission.

Take a Break Club

If you would like your child to take advantage of our Take a Break Club, booking forms are available at the school reception. May I remind all current users of this service that a form should be completed prior to their child attending the Tea Time Session as the catering service need one day's notice of children attending. Pupils wishing to attend the breakfast session can do so without booking in. Cost per sessions are Tea £7.50, Breakfast £3.00 and both on the same day is £10.50. Times are 8:00- 9:00am and 3:30 - 6:00pm.

School Attendance Figures - Autumn Term (Sept-Dec 2015)

Rec - 96% Year 1 - 94% Year 2 - 98% Year 3 - 97% Year 4 - 98%
Year 5 - 96% Year 6 - 95%

Regular and punctual school attendance is important. Although parents/carers have the legal responsibility for ensuring their child's good attendance, the staff and Governors at our school work together with other professionals and agencies to ensure that all pupils are encouraged and supported to develop good attendance habits. Children who are persistently late or absent soon fall behind with their learning. We work closely with the attendance monitoring team at the Local Authority who currently investigate and enforce unauthorised absence from school with the use of Fixed Penalty Notices. The team will fully investigate attendance/welfare issues and offer advice and support for both school and families. Karen Rutherford is the lead for this service and her team of family support workers are always available to offer support around lateness or attendance. Please contact the school office should you require any support for your child or family with regards to this.

School Uniform

Thank you for supporting us by purchasing school uniform. On the whole wearing of school uniform has been consistent; however there could be some improvements for some. School shoes are not trainers they must be black shoes, they must be appropriate for school and comfortable. Boots or wellies can be worn into school and children can change into their school shoes on arrival if they do not have black boots. NO jewellery is allowed to be worn for school. If children would like to have their ears pierced this should be done at the beginning of the six weeks holidays so that earrings can be removed for school. Nail varnish, make up, tattoos, or drawings on the skin are not allowed.

Parents have asked in the past could they donate outgrown uniform that is still in good condition for other pupils to benefit from. If parents would like us to arrange this please let Mrs Smith know. Any money that can be saved is certainly worth saving over the year.

Improvements to St. Mary's

St. Mary's Building and Maintenance work continues this year. Whilst of the work has been carried out during holiday times we still have tradesmen on site. The children have the majority been fantastic, they continue to work very hard and have quite happily moved around school to allow access to their classrooms so that varying plumbing jobs can be carried out. The majority of pipes and radiators are now in place downstairs and the joinery work should be complete in the next couple of weeks.

Some classrooms have also having a 'FACE LIFT' receiving new chairs, tables and carpets are planned, teachers and classroom assistants have been busying themselves refreshing displays in their classrooms, corridors and the assembly hall making it a bright, colourful and interesting school to learn in.



William Reid and Hannah Clark
enjoying their Guitar Lesson in
Miss Burns' classroom

Thank you for your continued support and I
look forward to seeing you over the term.

Mrs M. Graham

Acting Head Teacher