



Work, play, pray - together

# St. Mary's RC Primary School

## December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 Newsletter



Work, play, pray - together

### Mrs. Graham - Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our end of term newsletter. I hope that the achievements and activities enjoyed by our fantastic children throughout this term have filled you with as much joy and pride as they have me and the staff at St Mary's. Christmas time is a time to reflect and look back at the year that has passed. We have shared so many amazing moments with our children, staff, parents and the wider community and look forward to the opportunities that await.

Our children really impressed us with the organisation and productivity for our Christmas Fayre here in school and children really showing off their entrepreneurial skills as they sold some of their products on South Shields Market. I am sure our stall sold the most but I do have a feeling it was more down to the loud voices attracting the customers over to our stall. This is something we look forward to doing again. The children enjoyed reading the business plans submitted by staff, planning, costing and pricing products and of course an afternoon or after school club of fun with glitter, painting, printing, slime making, baking, sewing, to name but a few; a very different scene to the Creative Curriculum lessons usually at St Mary's. The children raised a staggering £784.15 from both the Fayre and the Market which they now plan to use to enhance the arts in school and spend some on their own class environment.

We then celebrated with our Key Stage 2 children who sang beautifully at their Christmas Concert and whilst on the note of singing a huge congratulations must go to our Fantastic School Choir whose singing is so amazing they were asked to perform in front of the TV cameras for a show called Sing out Christmas which will go out on Christmas Eve @ 9.00 pm and Christmas Day @ 3.00 pm on the Channel "Made in Tyne and Wear." Please watch out to see their performance. The Choir have been especially busy giving up their time to sing for the elderly at Needham Court, the lighting of the Christmas Lights at Edinburgh Road, The Big Sing in St. Matthews and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday at St. Mary's Church. A huge thank you to all of the children and of course, the parents and carers who come along to support them. Everyone in our Choir has shown great commitment and dedication in coming to rehearsals, learning songs and practising at home. They can be very proud of the high standard they achieved. Well done!

The school is extremely lucky to have such talented and dedicated staff and I would like to say a special thank you to Mr. Bourdieu and Miss Charles for leading the music to such a high standard at St Mary's. There has even been a suggestion from a few parents about setting up an adults' choir!

Our Christmas Nativities are always very special events and I'm sure you'll agree that this year was no exception, Nursery and Reception performed their Nativity Plays which were spectacular, our children always rise to the occasion and retold such a very special story to us all, I am sure there were a few tears shed in the audience as parents and carers looked on in amazement at our youngest children taking part in these plays.

Christmas Parties were a huge success this year, our children all changed in to their party clothes to join in the fun, games and lots of dancing followed by party food and a very special visit from Santa to the infant party and he even left a present for all of our Key Stage 2 children.

Our children have been perfect role models and their achievements and behaviour is certainly something to be celebrated this year. Our newly launched Behaviour for Learning Policy is now fully

embedded and having a very positive impact, I am sure all of our children, parents and carers are now used to the new procedures here in school - Well done to all!

### **General news**

#### **School Admissions.**

A reminder to anyone who is applying for a place in Reception for their child to start in September 2017, the deadline date for applications to be received by the local authority is the 16<sup>th</sup> of January. We have some places still available in our current Year 1 class and nursery should you of anyone who would like a place for their child. Please speak to Mrs Smith in the school office.

#### **Charities Supported this term.**

Poppy Appeal

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Children in Need

RSPCA

Shoebox Appeal

Jolly Jumper Day - St. Clare's Hospice

#### **Reminders:**

Christmas mass tomorrow at 10.30 in church, Christmas jumper day instead of wearing school sweat shirts, all other uniform items must be worn please, also Christmas dinner day.

Thursday we will draw our selection box raffle, present attendance and behaviour awards and have a Christmas quiz, please can you send in any tinsel, baubles etc. that you do not want to use in for this competition.

Dates:

We close at 1.30pm on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and will return on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2017.

#### **Emails:**

A reminder that a form will be sent home in the New Year requesting email addresses that future newsletters can be emailed rather than printed which will cut down on costs and staff time. Paper newsletters will still be available should you prefer this way of receiving it

As we enter the New Year, St Mary's School is looking extremely positive. A school is not about the buildings, it is about the people within and the support from outside, there have been a lot of changes this year all of which is showing a great impact here in school and by that benchmark our school is second to none.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at St Mary's School.

*Mrs M. Graham*

*Head Teacher*

