



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's RC Primary School

December 2016 Newsletter



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Mrs. Graham - Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin Advent, we move ever closer to the most exciting time of year for the children. Christmas preparations have already started with our choir singing last week for our local residents as lights were lit in the tree at Edinburgh Road shops, well done to them once again. All Christmas dates are on this newsletter and we see no reason for any of these dates to change.

The staff and children are preparing hard for the Christmas Craft fayre which will be held in school next Friday the 9th of December. This is the first time we have organised a Christmas Fayre and it is been tried this year as Mrs Walker is working towards the artsmark in school and has a craft fayre market stall in South Shields on Thursday, 8th December to sell some of the children's craft work. Mr Mackley captured this idea and has then developed this as a whole school enterprise project, each year group and staff member are now planning to make and sell various home- made Christmas crafts.

We are currently having our website re designed, please keep checking it to see what appears on your child's year group page and other information that is being posted regularly, you will even see the dinosaur that year 2 caught in our school grounds last week!!

A form will soon be sent home requesting email addresses in the hope 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.



Christmas Holiday Closure

Just a reminder of the Christmas school holidays, school will break up for the holidays on **THURSDAY, 22nd DECEMBER at 1:30pm** - there will be no Take a Break Club on the afternoon. Nursery will close on Wednesday the 21st.

We will return on **MONDAY, 9th JANUARY 2017.**

Donations Required

- Just like last year we will be collecting SELECTION BOXES to be raffled for your child's class, raffle tickets will go on sale soon!
- School Craft Fayre on Friday, 9th December, if you would like to donate an item for a raffle prize or tombola there is a box in the main reception where items are being collected - Many thanks.
- If you have any spare time to wrap presents, sort nativity costumes etc. please call into the school office, we really need your help.

Made in Tyne and Wear TV Channel

Our choir will be filmed singing for the programme Made in Tyne and Wear on 13th December. The programme will be aired on Christmas Day eve, time to be confirmed.

Shoebox Appeal

Thank you for joining in on the world's largest children's Christmas project - your shoebox gift is now on its way to be shipped to needy children around the world.



Well done! We have collected 50 boxes and small donations.



Jolly Jumper Day with St. Claire's Hospice

School will be raising money for St. Claire's Hospice by asking all our pupils to take part in their Jolly Jumper Day fundraising event. Pupils can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper on Wednesday, 21st December for a voluntary donation per family. Let's all support our local hospice in Jarrow!

Lollipop Patrol

Important Information! I have been informed by Road Safety that there will be no patrol on Edinburgh Road from 17th December 2016.



Reporting an Absence

It is important that all pupil absences are reported daily, for your convenience you can leave a message on the absence option on calling school. Please ensure if you cannot telephone school that you send your child back to school with a note so that their attendance can be altered from unauthorised absence to an authorised. All absences and lates are followed up by Miss Wood each week and reported to parent/carers via a Traffic Light System letter.



IMPORTANT DECEMBER DIARY DATES

The Big Sing School Choir: 8th December at St. Matthews Church @ 6:00pm

Flu Spray vaccinations Y1 to Y6: 9th December

School Craft Fayre - 9th December (time to be arranged)

Junior Concert: 14th December @ 2:00pm

Infant Party: 15th December @ 1:30pm

Junior Christmas Disco: 16th December @ 1:00pm

Carols by Candlelight: 18th Dec @ 6:00pm in St. Mary's Church

Infant Nativity: 20th December @ 2:00pm

Christmas Mass: 21st December in St. Mary's Church @ 10:30am

Jolly Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch - 21st December

School closes for Christmas holidays - 22nd December @ 1:30pm (Note Early Closure Time)

Christmas Holidays: 23rd December - 6th January 2017 (Council website to be updated)

School re-opens on 9th January 2017

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

Mrs Graham