



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 189

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love  
[admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk)

Tel: 01422 362365

4/12/20



**ADVENT 2020** We lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath this Monday. As usual, it has been constructed with great expertise by Mrs Conway and will help us to focus on the hopeful message of the next three weeks, as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christ's birth at Christmas.

**ADVENT PRAYERS** We can't offer children and parents the usual arrangements for morning prayers during Advent because of Covid restrictions. Miss Gott has instead made arrangements with our Faith in Action Y6 children to film prayers every Monday and to

post this on our school network for all classes to use at some point in the week.



**MASS IN SCHOOL** Fr Martin has been able to say a socially distanced Mass for one class in KS2 each Thursday since the beginning of this half-term. We have obviously had to organise this carefully, with children separated on chairs, no singing, no getting up and down or kneeling, no servers, no offertory etc. However, it has still worked well and been lovely to see back in our school again.

## FUN DRESS-UP DAYS (IN AID OF CAFOD)

Please make a one-off contribution of £1.50 on SCHOOL MONEY to cover all three of the Christmas-themed dressing-up days below .....

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.... 'Slippers Day'** (Christmas-themed if possible). Children can wear any slippers that they like to wear in the school building. They will probably need to bring their own slippers for playtime etc. Normal school uniform applies except for socks.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.... 'Christmas Hat / Woolly Hat' Day.** Children can wear a Christmas themed hat or woolly hat all day. Normal school uniform applies except for a hat.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.... 'Christmas Jumper' Day** (or just a bright jumper). Normal school uniform applies except for a jumper.



THIS HAPPENED TODAY

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** We are happy for children to bring Christmas cards to school to give to their classmates and members of staff but we ask that this is done in the following way from Monday next week.... Cards must be carefully addressed to the recipient both on the envelope and inside the card. Please make sure your child makes it clear who has sent the card. Cards should be put in the Christmas Post Box in the link corridor on **MONDAY, TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY**. They will stay in the Post Box until Friday pm, when they will be distributed around school by Y6 children wearing barrier gloves for hygiene safety reasons.



**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER** We will have our traditional Christmas Dinner in school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. If you want your child to have a meal on this day ***you need to have booked it through School Money by the end of today***. If your child is bringing a packed lunch on this day, please include something 'festive' (Chocolate Roll / Turkey Sandwiches / Christmas Cake etc.). Children may also like to wear a Christmas hat during lunch.

**ACADEMY CONVERSION NEWS** Our Governors have recently received the very good news that we have been given approval by the DfE to convert to an Academy and join the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust. This is a significant step in the process and we currently hope the actual change in status will happen on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021. In terms of what the impact will be on parents and children (and even staff) there is unlikely to be very much for you to notice. St Mary's will continue to be the school it has always been and we will continue to do our very best to help children learn and understand that they are loved by God.

**PTFA TEA TOWEL** Every child and adult in school has been put on this T-Towel as a little selfie drawing. It could be a lovely Christmas gift for family members and for yourself. The towels can be bought on School Money for £4 each. How can you not have one!?



**THANK YOU & WELL DONE!** A massive thank you to all parents and children who continued their learning so effectively online when they were in isolation over the last few weeks. It has been fantastic for our teachers to be able to pick up straight away from where the children left off. If you have not registered with **Century (KS2) or SeeSaw** we strongly advise you to do this, as it was the main way we continued to teach your child at home – and from the feedback we have had, it is clear it worked!!

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE** Please consider buying a £1 ticket for our raffle, which is in aid of CAFOD and will be drawn at the end of term.



**Thank you for continuing to wear masks whilst in the grounds of the school.**

It has been wonderful to have a full school again, following the return of 5P, 6HG, 4/3PS, 4/3JS and 3R from their isolation periods because of Covid. We can hopefully get through to the end of the term with no more class closures if everyone continues to take precautions **HANDS - FACE - SPACE**