

ST MARY'S NEWS

Our Virtue for December is PATIENCE.

"Be patient and wait for the Lord to act, don't be worried about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans. Don't give in to worry or anger; it only leads to trouble." Psalm 37:7-8

BRAVO WINNERS

EYU	Jai Dawson and Jovi Mould
Class 2	Noah Matthewman and Emilie Ledgard
Class 4	Sam Thorpe and Harvey Dyson
Class 5	Atif Naseer and Daisy Jackson
Class 6	Elina Vadsariya and Roman Brown
Class 7	Patrick Pinder and Vanessa Bosela
Class 8	Jack Walker and Zuza Soltysiak
Class 9	Tyler Greenwood and Angel Johnson
Class 10	Roksana Greidane and Logan Thorpe
Class 11	James Fisher and Jessica Rhys-Hill
Mrs Hetherington	Breña Dyer-Oates, Alfie Mack and Jasmine Dakin
Miss Liversidge	Harper Middleton and Parker Warren-Gott
Mrs Spivey	Cohen Hudson and Ava Willans

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CHILDREN

We have had a display up in the Hall the last few weeks and children have coloured in a bauble shape with their hopes, wishes and prayers for their families.

Here is just a small selection:

"My Christmas wish is remembering Jesus when he was born"

"I wish people stay safe and to people who have lost loved ones stay strong and know they are in Heaven"

"I wish for world peace and to become a green and nature friendly world. I wish for wars to end and to end poverty and homeless people to find a place to live."

"I wish for a happy Christmas. I wish for everybody who is sick get better. I wish that there could be a cure for cancer. I wish the corona virus could be gone. I wish this Christmas could be really good. I wish for all the bad things to be gone. Merry Christmas."

"I wish that my family will stay safe during COVID-19 and just because we can't see each other doesn't mean Christmas spirit isn't around."

"I hope everyone loves each other and stays safe this Christmas"

"I hope that people who have lost their loved ones can recover from lament and realise that they are with them wherever you are, and remember you for ever"

"Dear Santa, I'd love to see how you do your work and see your adorable little elves! I hope I will see you! Thank you for making everyone happy. Merry Xmas"

VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

Fr Eamonn and Michelle are putting the finishing touches to the virtual carol service. It includes Parishioners doing the readings and soloists, classes 7 and 8 singing Silent Night, photos from Nativities and a message from Bishop Marcus. It will be streamed at 3pm on Sunday 20th December on the Parish website.

MASSES for CHRISTMAS

This is an online booking service-please go to www.stmarybatley.co.uk

Thursday 24th December - **Christmas Eve - 4.30pm (This Mass is now fully booked)**

Thursday 24th December - **Christmas Eve - 8.00pm**

Friday 25th December - **Christmas Day - 10.30am**

Saturday 26th December - **Holy Family - 4.30pm**

Sunday 27th December - **Holy Family - 10.30am**

Friday 1st January - **Mary, Mother of God - 12.00pm**

THANKYOU

A massive thanks to all our school family: for the children who have worked so hard since September and just accepted and adapted to our new school day, bubbles, different ways of working in class etc. They are just amazing and we are all very proud of them.

For our whole staff, for their tireless hard work in whatever role they have in school, the determination to help all children catch up on what they missed last year and to make as much progress as they can, reassuring the children that we can get through this strange time, keeping us all as safe as we can be from the virus even whilst worried about their own families.

For you our parents and carers who have supported us in all we have tried to put in place to keep the school open. For your understanding and patience when dropping and collecting your children, for supporting your children at home when having to isolate and being really vigilant and cautious when your children have been unwell.

For our school governors who have supported the decisions we have had to make regarding school bubble closures, risk assessments and changes to the school routines.

It is because of all of the above and the role of you all within our school family that we have been able to keep St Mary's open and the children be happy and settled in school.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and will see you all back on Monday 4th January 2021.

Advice from the Department for Education (DfE) Wednesday 9th December 2020

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Where a school's last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.

Following the above advice school calls will be diverted to ensure any parents needing to inform us of a positive case can do so. Call divert will be active between Fri 18th and Wed 23rd December. **Please ring between 9am and 4pm on the above days and only regarding COVID testing and results.**