



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



No. 190

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love

admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk

Tel: 01422 362365

18/12/20

www.stmaryshalifax.co.uk

CHRISTMAS WILL BE HERE SOON!! As we break for the two week Christmas holidays we have lit all the candles on our school Advent Wreath, including the white one in the middle, signifying the purity and innocence of the baby Jesus on his birthday.

Normally we would be doing this as a whole school, with members of staff reading the Christmas story and everyone singing lots of traditional carols and songs. Then Mr Brennan finishes the assembly with a reading of 'Twas the Night before Christmas' before we go home. We have not been able to do this, but Mr Brennan has made a recording of the poem, which can be found on our website (**CURRICULUM – SM RADIO**). There is also a **Christmas Podcast Special** to listen to, with lots of contributions from children and adults across school, which has been put together by Mr Smith and Mr Dyson.



THANK YOU We would like to thank a number of charities and organisations who have donated money and presents to nearly 20 families in our school to help make Christmas more special. SMART MOVE (Calderdale), Next Steps, Huddersfield Catenians (Branch 145), Verlingue Insurance Brokers, St Mary's SVP and an anonymous donation of a Christmas Hamper.



MASS IN SCHOOL Fr Martin has been able to say a socially distanced Mass for one class in KS2 each week since the beginning of this half-term. We are very grateful to him for agreeing to do this for us. Hopefully, as the Covid situation ebbs away we will be able to attend Mass in Church and in the school hall as a whole school once again.

IMPORTANT



COVID POSITIVE TESTING Whilst we are sure everyone will be as sensible about their social distancing as possible during the next two weeks, there is unfortunately a small chance that someone (child or adult) in a household has a **POSITIVE** test for Covid at some point while we are off school. If this happens in your household it is extremely important for the school to know, so that we can take the necessary measures to either close a class for a period of time in the first week back, or let contacts within school know that they need to isolate themselves for a period of time up to 10 days from their last contact with the school.

If anyone in your household tests **POSITIVE** over the holidays please let us know immediately by emailing: admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk

YOU SHOULD ATTACH THE NHS TRACK & TRACE NOTIFICATION TO YOUR EMAIL

Thank you

WEDNESDAY WORD For those of you who like to read the Wednesday Word (which is currently only available online – and through our website on the FAITH LIFE tab) we recommend using this link, which will help you and your children prepare for, and celebrate Christmas –

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/christmas-holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=13.4>



KS1 / FS NATIVITY We have sent information to all parents in FS and KS1 about accessing our Nativity, which this year has been filmed, rather than performed in front of an audience. A big thank you to Mr Morley and everyone else who helped put this together. We have password protected this page so that you can only access it if a parent of a child in the relevant year groups has given it to you. We would prefer you to only view the recording directly via the school website. Please do not

share the recording on social media unless you are prepared to accept full responsibility for how it is used and shared in the future. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE Congratulations to all the winners of the Christmas Hampers. Our Advent efforts (Advent Calendars, Theme Days and Tea Towels) have raised more than **£800** for the PTFA and CAFOD.



CHRISTMAS MASSES – ST MARY’S CHURCH Because of the various restrictions this year, people have been asking about the celebration of Christmas Masses. Unfortunately the numbers able to attend each Mass will continue to be restricted. The Bishop reminds us, particularly this year, that the Octave of Christmas means that from 25th December - 1st January **every day is seen by the Church as Christmas Day** and if we are unable to book a seat for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day there will be plenty of seats for the daily Christmas Mass which concludes on 1st January, the end of the Octave, with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

- Thursday 24th December: Vigil Mass for Christmas: 4.00pm & 6.00pm.
- Friday 25th December: Mass of Christmas Day: 9.30am & 11.00am
- Saturday 26th December: Mass 12.15pm (St. Stephen)
- Sunday 27th December: 9.30am, 11am, 6pm (Feast of the Holy Family)
- Monday 28th December - Friday 1st January: 9.30am.



All Masses will continue to be live streamed on YouTube. (See the Parish website for details)

If you want to attend Mass in person it is **ESSENTIAL TO BOOK A PLACE** for **ALL** Masses (Daily Public and Christmas) using the online booking system. Remember 4 people from the same household or social bubble only require 1 ticket. 5 people or more from the same household or social bubble only require 2 tickets.

FINALLY Mr Brennan and all the staff would like to thank you for your support this term (and this year) in this very strange and unique time. We also thank you for all the good wishes and presents so generously given to us. **We wish you a very Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.**

KEEP SAFE – SEE YOU IN 2021!!

