

Key Diary Dates-Here are the key dates we already have for this term. Of course, new events and activities will be added throughout the year, so we would suggest that parents look at the diary dates each week as new ones will be added!* all dates are subject to change **Parents are welcome to attend if there is a # in the last column.

Date	Event	# ?
Mon 10.12	FS on a trip to Totley Hall Farm	
Tue 11.12	Community carol service.6.00 at church.	#
Wed 12.12	Christmas disco for Key stage 1 and foundation at 3.45-4.30	
Wed 12.12	Christmas disco for Key stage 2 at 4.45-6.00	
Thu 13.12	Choir at Woodlands- PM	
Thu 13.12	Y4 Swimming	
Fri 14.12	Key stage 2 Mass. 'John the Baptist'. Year 5 to lead.	#
Tue 18.12	FS and KS1 Christmas concerts-2.00 and 6.00	#
Wed 19.12	Key stage 2 Christmas concerts-2.00 and 6.00	#
Thu 20.12	Nativity led by performing Arts group, after school	#
Fri 21.12	Whole school Mass. Year 6 to lead. In church	#
Fri 21.12	Break up for Christmas holidays- 2.00 close!	
Tue 08.01	Return to school	

Attendance

Time Frame	FS	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6	Total
26.11.2018 – 30.11.2018	96.5%	95.3%	96.1%	94.3%	95.8%	95.7%	98.1%	96.0%

Well done to year 6 for such a good attendance, especially at this time of the year!

Choir News-Well done to our choir, who entertained an appreciative audience at Rotherham Hospice with their wonderful carolling this week. All reports back say that the children were wonderful, singing beautifully and behaving themselves impeccably.



Christmas Dinner- We had a wonderful time this week enjoying a tasty and very festive Christmas dinner in school. The children were full of the joys of the season and enjoyed eating their dinner, pulling their crackers and singing their Christmas songs.

Many thanks to the kitchen staff who worked incredibly hard to 'dish up' around 200 dinners in a very short space of time and the staff who supported them .It was a brilliant effort by all!



St Mary's Catholic Primary School **07.12.18**



St Nicholas Feast Day-December 6th. A Story...



When Saint Nicholas was a little boy, his parents were really wealthy. But he was always looking for ways to help people. He became a priest after his mother and father died, and, little by little, he gave all of his riches away. One day he heard two wealthy men talking on the street. They were saying that it was a shame their friend Osman was not able to afford a wedding dowry* for his three daughters.

Now Saint Nicholas knew exactly where Osman lived, and that night after dinner he went to his house and peeked in the window. He saw Osman and his three daughters sitting around in the living room, talking. When it was time for them to go to bed, Saint Nicholas watched as the old man smiled and kissed each of his girls good-night. But when the girls left the room, the poor man looked sad.

Then Saint Nicholas had a terrific idea. The next night, when everybody went off to bed, Saint Nicholas crept silently up to Osman's living room window. He took a bag of gold coins from his pocket and threw them through the open window. The next morning, as usual, the oldest daughter went to get her stockings that were hanging from the fireplace. She washed her stockings every night, and the fireplace was the only spot where they would dry. Inside one of the stockings she found the gold coins!

"Oh boy!" she said. "Now I can get married. I have a gift to give to my future husband!"

"I wonder who put that money there," one of the other sisters said.

"I don't know," replied the oldest girl. "But whoever it was sure has made me happy."

That night, Saint Nicholas returned to do the same thing all over again. He tossed some more gold coins through the window. The next day the second daughter found the money.

The girls eagerly ran to their father and said, "What a fantastic surprise! You were just teasing when you said that you couldn't afford a dowry. Daddy, you are wonderful."

Now Osman was getting all mixed up. He knew he didn't have money to leave just lying around the house. In fact, he barely had any money at all. So he decided to stay up and hide behind the bushes in front of the house to catch the person leaving the money. That night Saint Nicholas came back just like before.

As usual, he threw gold coins in the window for the third daughter. But this time Osman caught him red-handed.

"Oh, Father Nicholas! So you are the one who has been tossing all that money in my house."

"Well, you caught me," Saint Nicholas said. "But please don't tell anybody. Let it be our little secret."

Osman replied, "OK, I promise not to say a word. But I have to thank you. You have made us all so very happy."

Finally, the next morning the third daughter found her money too, and all three girls were able to be married.

*Dowry- Money or property that a wife or wife's family gives to her husband when the wife and husband marry in some culture

Safeguarding and Child Protection News-3 services that might help...

Childline- Childline is a free 24-hour counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday in the United Kingdom provided by the NSPCC. Children can contact this service simply by ringing their number.

0800 1111

Parent Zone-Parent Zone is devoted to providing expert information to families, schools and family professionals. They create, curate and check the best available advice and information on all of the issues that are caused or amplified by the internet.

The Parent Zone mission is 'To improve outcomes for children in a digital world'.

www.theparentzone.co.uk/school

Thinkyouknow? Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command.

CEOP is a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

E-Safety Tips for Christmas! -As Christmas is getting closer, children and young people all over the country will be writing lists to Santa or giving hints about what they would like under the tree. Technology is now a very popular item on many children's lists with tablets, smartphones, game consoles and smartwatches likely to be asked for this year.

Whilst we want children to enjoy their presents, it is also important that parents look at ways to ensure that their children use these devices safely. This includes **setting parental controls** and understanding that video games have **PEGI ratings** similar to the classification for films. Other things that you may want to consider is managing **screen time** so that you can monitor the amount of time being spent on each device. This is useful for meal times or during the school holidays.

Finally, once the tinsel has come down and we welcome the New Year, make sure that you talk to your children about online safety.

1. Set parental controls on new devices
2. Talk about safe selfies
3. Know the PEGI ratings for games
4. Set a digital sunset
5. Manage screen time
6. No tech at mealtimes
7. Remember the ratings for Apps
8. Set up home internet filtering
9. Don't share personal information
10. Protect your password
11. Talk to your children about e-safety
12. Remember online stranger danger



TeaClip.com #41547 service@teacips.com



Earrings and ear studs-Earrings must NOT be worn at any time. As well as this, from January 2019 we ask that children do not wear ear studs at school. However, if children must wear studs (health and safety reasons only please) we ask that parents get an 'Ear Studs Exception' letter from the office, fill it in and return it. Children must not wear studs in school without their parents filling in this form and giving it to the office.

*Ear studs worn in schools must be plain (single colour) and should not be a fashion item.

School Uniform-We want our children to look as smart as possible and so, to this end we would like to remind parents of our school uniform:

Boys-grey trousers, blue sweatshirt, blue polo shirt, black shoes / trainers.

Girls-grey skirt/trousers, blue sweatshirt/blue cardigan, blue polo shirt, black shoes/trainers.

PE kit-Indoor-white T-shirt, blue/black shorts.

PE kit- Outdoor-white T-shirt, blue black shorts, (children may wear a tracksuit over their kit for outside P.E for when it is cold.)

Please note: Shoes/ trainers must be plain black- we prefer no brands please. Boots of any description are not allowed. Shoes must be flat.

Calling All Parents and Carers-Do you have a morning or an afternoon to spare once a week? Would you like to come in and listen to readers in school? If so, we would be delighted to hear from you! We want all of our children to be strong, fluent readers who enjoy reading for pleasure, and any time you give helping is invaluable in helping them fulfil their potential.



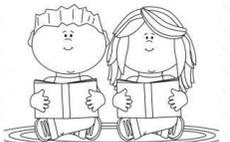
We consider the consolidation of reading skills by reading with an adult a crucial part of improving reading standards in our children. That is why parent readers are absolutely critical.

If you would like to offer some time once a week hearing our children read you can either contact us directly at school by calling in, sending a letter or phoning us. We will be delighted to speak to you.

Please consider coming in; your help would be gratefully welcomed!

*We currently have about five parents who offer their time each week to listen to children read. These parents have been allocated a class and work with the children in that class to help them become better readers. Can I say a massive thank you to these parents, who so selflessly give up their time to volunteer in this way. It is so important to consolidate reading and I have been incredibly impressed by just how positive the response has been from teachers about this help they are getting.

We appreciate it hugely!!!!



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