

Key Diary Dates:

Date	Event	# ?
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 at 4.00	#
Thu 20.12	Christmas jumper day and Christmas parties.	
Thu 20.12	Performance Arts group to perform 'The Nativity' -4.00	#
Fri 21.12	Whole school Mass. Year 6 to lead. In church 9.30	#
Fri 21.12	'Bring a Toy to School' day	
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
03.12.2018 – 07.12.2018	86.5%	95.7%	97.9%	98.0%	97.1%	97.3%	93.5%	95.1%

Well done to year 3 for having the best attendance this week.

This Week...Farm Visit- our foundation children had a great time at Totley Hall Farm this week, where they learnt all about the animals they saw. The children really enjoyed themselves and were very good all day!

Choir News- Well done to our choir who, for the second week running, ventured out to share their festive tunes with the public.

This time they travelled to the Woodlands Hospital, Rotherham and entertained everyone with their wonderful carolling. Well done to all.



Community Carol Concert- well done to everyone who took part in the wonderful, festive carol concert in church this week. The true meaning of Advent and Christmas was very much on display as the children and adults joined together to sing, dance and reflect.

Swimming- Year 4 started their swimming programme this week with a visit to the baths to establish the rules and how the sessions after Christmas will work.

Santa Dash- Our Year 6 children travelled to Wath Comprehensive School this week to take part in the 'Santa Dash'. Although the cold was bracing, the children completed the course in high spirits and looked very festive!

Christmas Discos- Our children had a wonderful time 'throwing some shapes' this week at their disco. The children really got stuck in and got up on the dance floor, making the atmosphere at both discos fantastic!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School **14.12.18**



This week the Advent wreath helps us to focus on the word '**Joy**'.

There are lots of examples which show how people have been able to spread joy in a small or larger way. For example:

'U.S.A-For nearly a decade, an anonymous donor has bought every toy in the Fort Collins County 'Goodwill Store', Colorado, so that any child who walks into the store leaves with something.



"All kids today, all day long, you get one free toy, free stuffed animal or free kids book," Todd Wakefield, Goodwill's Senior Director of Retail, said in the intercom.

The anonymous donor said he does not need recognition for his act of kindness, but said that this day has become an important part of his family's Christmas tradition.

As kids crowded around plastic bins overflowing with toys, he and his wife quietly took in the scene before slipping out the front door, unnoticed.'

Boys and girls, can you think of the one event in your life that has brought you great joy? Have you ever brought joy to someone else? Does bringing joy to others make you feel great? I bet it does!

The ultimate joy though, for us at St Mary's, is knowing that Advent means that Jesus is nearly here. That is why we light the third candle, the Candle of Joy or the Gaudete Candle this Sunday: Jesus is nearly here and we can barely control our delight and anticipation!

WE FEEL JOYOUS!



Staff News:

- Mrs Doran has made the decision to extend her maternity leave till March 2019. This means that the current job share arrangements in Year 4 with Mrs Cutler and Mrs Deehan will continue.

-In order to foster staff continued professional development, Mrs Holt will assume the role of deputy head teacher from January 7th until Mrs Doran returns.

-There will be no more ukulele for Year 3 after Christmas due to staffing changes. We thank Mr Fitzgerald for all the hard work and dedication he has given to St Mary's over the years and especially this year.

*Class 3 will receive a drum/ percussion lesson, with Rotherham Music Services.details to follow when arrangements have been confirmed.

Club News- We are working hard to get a club letter out to parents as soon as we can. We are just putting the finishing touches to the letter, which will be sent out early next week, so you can start to book places on the various clubs.

Peripatetic music- We are very proud of the children who take part in peripatetic music lessons in school. They are showing great dedication and talent as they learn and develop their musicianship skills.



We are working with Rotherham Music Services to organise a little concert in January to give these children an opportunity to play in front of their peers.

We will inform you of any progress in this as soon as we can. If we can't get a concert organised just after Christmas we will work to putting on a concert later in the year, so the children have their moment to shine in school!

Star Awards

FS - Patrick for growing in confidence.

Annie for her creativity.

Y1 - Ethan and Esme for showing enthusiasm in their learning.

Y2 - Amelia for being so positive all the time.

Izzy for always working hard and supporting others.

Y3 – Maya and Lydia for always being helpful around the classroom.

Y4 – Maria for consistently behaving well and being a good role model.

Ava for always having a positive attitude towards school and her work.

Sarah for taking pride over the presentation of her work.

Y5 – Noah and Neve for being this weeks 'Always child'.

Y6 – Blake for her fantastic guidance to younger children in play rehearsals.

Lewis for showing resilience when things are difficult.

Sports Star of the week

Year 6 for their effort and festive fun in the Santa Dash.

NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday- Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert-Our younger children will be putting on their show 'Prickly Hay' . The children and staff have been very busy preparing for their performance and I am sure it will be spectacular!

Wednesday- It is the turn of our older children to present 'Baa Humbug' . Again, the children, along with the staff and, of course, parents at home, have been busy learning lines, practising songs and rehearsing actions. We are very excited to see the finished show!

*Specific details will be sent out next week if they are required, to ensure everything runs smoothly at the concerts.

Thursday- Christmas parties and Christmas jumper day. Our children are sure to have a wonderful time at their parties! Children can wear their Christmas jumpers, party clothes or their own clothes all day.

Thursday- Our Performing Arts group are putting on their version of 'The Nativity' on Thursday after school. All parents/carers are welcome to see the show at 4.00 and it will last approximately 1 hour. They will also put on a performance in the day for the rest of the children.

Friday- Mass- Our last school Mass of the year will take place on Friday at 9.30am in church. As usual, all are invited. Year 6 to lead. Don't forget- St Marys' baby group nativity at the end of mass.

Friday-Bring a toy to school-All children may bring a toy in to play with if they wish. Rules- Nothing that needs to be plugged in, no remote control toys, nothing of significant financial or sentimental value. Children will be allowed to play with toys when the teacher allows and when there isn't another activity on.

Christmas Fayre-We all hugely enjoyed our Christmas fayre on Friday, with an excellent turn out despite the cold. The children had a great time getting stuck into the goodies and having a go at the stalls, and our parents turned out in force to have a warm drink, hot roast sandwich and savour the atmosphere of this very special event.

We were delighted that a very special guest could come and talk to the children about their Christmas wishes. Thank you Father Christmas!

Many thanks yet again to all of our dedicated 'Friends' who worked tirelessly to plan and prepare the fayre: without them such events would simply not happen. Thank you also to staff and the children for staying and manning their various stalls. They were very creative! Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the event by sending in raffle prizes, baking etc and to those who supported the event on the day.

We will inform you of the final amount in next week's newsletter.



--	--	--

--	--	--