



# St Mary Magdalen's Newsletter

Letting the Light of Jesus Shine Through

## Worship Reflections

### Advent - Joy

Dear Jesus,

In Advent and at Christmas we learn what it means to be joyful! Help us to remember that real joy is not found in presents but in the love you bring into our lives.

Amen.

## Birthdays this week

*Happy birthday this week to:*

Alexis Williams, Alfie Kevill, Ava Cross, Ellen Fowler

*Happy birthday for the children over Christmas holidays:*

Lauren Clarke, Harry Acton, Alfie Ramm, Zac Williams, Helena McLintic & James Taylor.

## School Meals

*We will be on Week 2 of the menu next week when we return from the Christmas holidays.*

## Contact Details

If you are lucky enough to receive a mobile phone from Father Christmas, can you please update your contact details with the office? Thank you.

## Breakfast/After School Club

*When we return in the New Year on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January, the breakfast and after school club will be held in school for the first week as the Church hall is being rewired. All drop offs and collections at the front entrance. Thank you.*

Staff, parents and pupils of ten schools in Preston may well be feeling that the season of goodwill is passing them by this year. The Lancashire Evening Post saw fit to name and shame ten schools they considered the worst in Preston. They also named who they considered to be the ten best. These judgements are wildly inaccurate and do not take into account the progress children made, including progress of disadvantaged and special needs pupils nor do they even acknowledge the number of children who got the higher level grade or even the average mark. The article was potentially extremely damaging to those named as they may well find themselves losing pupil numbers and therefore losing funding.

I have written a letter of complaint on behalf of our large cluster of schools and we have all decided that unless they retract the article we will be boycotting the LEP. This was very lazy reporting and highly irresponsible. It is important to stand up and be counted when injustice is done. Some of you may know that I was headteacher of St Maria Goretti's in Ribblesdale before I came to St Mary Magdalen's. When I took up post there the results were very low and with a great team of people we were able to significantly improve them. I cannot imagine having had the additional stress of local press doing us down when we were working so hard to improve things.

At school we teach the children to not be confrontational but to be brave and stand up for what is right even when it is not what people want to hear. I am sure these are values that you are instilling in your children at home as we see many examples of children making hard choices for the right reasons. And we see children getting very emotional about social injustice. Your children know they are lucky. They know that they are lucky to live in loving homes, to have a strong Christian faith, to be happy in school, to have holidays, to have a quality education and a right to be treated equally. Between home and school we are doing a wonderful job or raising lovely children. We are very proud of the children at our school and we know you must be too. I am sure Father Christmas will think they deserve lots of special gifts.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you a very blessed and happy Christmas.

## Merit Winners

### *Congratulations this week to:*

Year R – **Lyla Mountford** for being a kind and helpful member of our class & **Charlie Hunter** for working really hard with his handwriting.

Year 1 – **Aurora Melling** for a much improved attitude to learning and school & **Faye Roscoe** for excellent writing when making her non-fiction book about Christmas.

Year 2 – **Olive McMullan** for a great discussion about poetry & **Aaliyah Andrew** for great work on addition within ten.

Year 3 – **Daisy Lee-Walker** for imaginative ideas used in written work and **Harry Weston** for excellent answering in all lessons.

Year 4 – **Oliver Delaney** for super work during our Science work on sound and **Eva Dos-Santos** for persevering and trying hard with problem solving in Maths.

Year 5 – **Beth Chester** for applying the P E E technique to her reading test and **Libby Bowerman-Melling** for achieving a high score in tests.

Year 6 – **Ethan Walker** for his rapid improvement in written arithmetic and **Melissa Dixon** for bringing a smile and a positive attitude to Year 6.

## Christmas Holidays

*Please note that school will close tomorrow at the usual time of 3.15pm for the Christmas holidays. Thank you to our amazing staff and the PTFA for ensuring that this Christmas season in school has been wonderful. I hope you all have a wonderful time this Christmas. School will reopen again on Monday 7th January at 8.50am.*

## Sumdog

There will be a Sumdog challenge for Y1-Y6 children over the Christmas holidays. Anyone who gets 250 correct answers will get 250 bonus coins for their avatar and a certificate in Assembly. Login in at [www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com). You will need your username and password, teachers will hand out these to any children who have forgotten them. We do not have a school code, if the site asks for one try searching for Sumdog login page instead. Have fun!

## Words of the Week

This year we are all seeking to expand our vocabularies to help our children to be even better writers. Please encourage them to use these words. Older children may well be motivated to learn the adult words.

Reception	difficult
Year 1	taxing
Year 2	demanding
Year 3	challenging
Year 4	exhausting
Year 5	strenuous
Year 6	back-breaking
Adult	exacting

