

loving  
hopeful  
attentive  
faith-filled  
generous  
eloquent  
intentional  
learned  
wise  
grateful  
discerning  
compassionate  
active  
truthful



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
ST. MARGARET MARY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Week beginning Monday November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

**Thought for the week:**

**“Eating words will never give you indigestion”**

**ADVENT 2016.** In school this week we led the children into the season of Advent. We explained the symbolism behind the Advent wreath. Advent during the dark nights of winter in years gone by was probably used as a source of light and warmth. The children however knew that the wreath is decorated with evergreens to represent Jesus' love for us and how it never changes. Secondly that it is circular in shape to also demonstrate that Jesus' love has no beginning and no end. Our Family Mass on Sunday will see us light the first candle on the Advent wreath, a candle of hope to help us remember that “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm.**

The workshop for Y3 parents takes place next *Wednesday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm*, all the children who are making their first Confession and then Holy Communion later in the year need to be represented at this session.

**Family Mass Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am.**

Our next “family mass” takes place this *Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>*. On behalf of Father Simon I want to extend a welcome to everyone to come along. In particular if you are a new family in Nursery or Reception. Thank you in advance to everyone that manages to attend on Sunday, and also to anyone that helped in anyway in preparing the Liturgy.

**School Mass.** Thanks to Y5 for leading our Mass today and also to Mr Barton for organising the readers. Our next Mass will be on *Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9.15am, it will be led by Y1.*

**Christmas 2016.** Please make sure you buy a raffle ticket/book as £200 will be the first prize and a drinks hamper will be second prize. There will be many other items available to win and all would make ideal gifts before Christmas, so please make sure you buy a book of tickets.

**School Council Assembly.** Thanks to our councillors and Miss McCarron for starting our week off on Monday with their assembly. The School Council fulfil an important role in school and it was good to hear their many plans for the year ahead.

**INSPIRE Workshop Week.** Many thanks to everyone that came along to their childrens workshops this week. Despite the weather there was a healthy turnout across school. Thanks to all the teachers for leading the individual sessions.

**Parents Coffee morning.** Thank you to Mrs Logue for organising our coffee morning yesterday and to those parents that came along.

**Half Term Dates.** The dates have come home for the half term ahead; all of them are on the school website [www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk)

**Dinner Money.** I have written on many occasions both collectively and individually about dinner money. As a result of our governors meeting last night we formally ratified our “Debt Policy” in response to the current situation. Our school is currently owed over £1000 in dinner money, a shortfall that has to come out of the school budget. This is money the governors and I would much rather spend on the children. The Debt Policy comes into place next week so please make sure any outstanding monies are paid or a packed lunch is provided. Please do have a look at the policy because families owing more than two weeks money will have to provide a packed lunch for their child/children.



**Contact Details.** Sometimes the numbers we have on our list are “unavailable”. Please can I ask everyone to make sure that if you change your number that the school has the up to date and correct one. Please make sure you fill in the contact sheet that was sent out on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**School Drive.** Once again I write to ask all drivers to exercise great caution when driving up to school. With the darker nights and gloomy mornings please can all drivers be extra vigilant when entering/exiting school.

**Walking Home.** A number of our older children walk home in the evenings. Can I ask parents of children in Y5/6 to re enforce the message of keeping to main roads and well-lit areas. We had an unfortunate incident in the park last week when one of our children was approached for their mobile phone whilst walking home. As the nights draw in please can I ask that all those that do walk home, walk with someone else and stay to the proper footpaths.

**Some Key Dates for the week ahead: Week beginning November 28th**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Fit 4 Schools Day

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Fit 4 Schools day 2.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Reconciliation Workshop Y3 1.30PM, Non-Uniform Day “Blue Day” £1 per family.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> School Bank Open 8.45am.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> KS1 Mass led by Y1.

**Extra Curricular Clubs: Week beginning Monday November 28th 2016 3.15pm-4.00pm**

Day	Club	Year group	Teacher
Monday	Netball	Y5&6	Miss Dunne
Monday	Computing	Y4	Miss McCarron
Monday	RE	Y3	Mrs Hayes
Tuesday	D+T	Y2D	Mrs Attwood
Tuesday	Dance	Y1	Mrs Gray
Wednesday	Gymnastics	Y4	Fit 4 Schools
Thursday	Art	Reception, Mrs Hayes	Mrs Crossen
Thursday	Maths	Y3	Miss McGeechan
Thursday	Sport	Y5/6	Mr Barton
Thursday	Science	Y2B	Mrs Bryan

**Attendance for week ending November 25th 2016.**

Year Group	% Attendance
Reception H	91%
<b>Reception C</b>	<b>99%</b>
Y1F	93%
Y1M	97%
Y2C	98%
Y2D	96%
Y3	97%
Y4	97%
Y5	96%
Y6	96%
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>96%</b>

**Happy Birthday:** Nicole Croft, Kaitlin Jones, Jessica Thompson and Brandon Burchell.

**Please pray for:** Our school and parish as we prepare for Advent together.

**Congratulations:** To the Neary family on the birth of baby Romy.

It’s always nice to welcome new staff members to our team; Miss Shamey Farzana joined St Margaret Marys this week. I’m sure I speak on behalf of everyone in welcoming her to our family; I wish her well in her new role.

Many thanks for your co-operation and support with these matters.

M. Aldred Head teacher

