



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

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**Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

**Thought for the week:**

**“Don’t find fault, find a remedy”**

**ADVENT 2016.** Our week began with our Advent assembly. I led the children in revisiting the symbolism of the Advent wreath and a discussion about the meaning of Advent. The first part of Advent focusses on our preparations for Jesus coming again whilst the later part of the season is when we consider Jesus being born in Bethlehem. The key to both is to be ready, and it is this that we talked about at length. The children said that we could get ready by following our Walk with Me Calendars, by saying our prayers, by making an Advent promise to do something extra and by remembering that Jesus is the “reason for the season”.

Thank you to Blanka (Y2) for coming out to the front to light our first candle, thanks also to everyone that wrote out an explanation of what the different coloured candles represent.

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

A huge thank you to our Y3 families for coming along to our workshop on Wednesday. Mr Barton led the Y3 parents in finalising preparations for first Confession with a really thought provoking session around the story of the “Prodigal Son”. A big thank you to all concerned.

**Family Mass Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>.**

A final word of thanks to everyone that came along to church last Sunday. It really was “standing room only”. It was a truly fitting way to begin Advent and well done to Sinead (Y3) for lighting the first Advent candle. It was lovely to see so many families at Mass and I do encourage you to visit St Margaret Marys over the Christmas period. A poster from Father Simon should by now have reached you outlining Mass times; in particular can I draw your attention to a special Christmas Eve service at 3.00pm for children. A word of thanks to the staff that once again to the staff for their support last Sunday it really is much appreciated.

**School Mass.** Thanks to Y1 for leading our Mass today and also to Miss McCeechan for organising the readers. Our next Mass will be on *Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> (please note the change of day) at 9.15am, it will be led by Y3.*

**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.

**End of Term.** School closes for the Christmas holidays at **1.00pm on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>.** The children return to school at the normal time on **Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

**Reception Intake 2017 a note from the local authority to all families seeking a school place.**

**Do you have a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013? If so, it is important that you apply online for your child’s Reception class place for September 2017 by 16th January 2017. For further information and to apply online please visit**

**[www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions), alternatively contact a member of the Children’s Information and Advice Service on 0121 303 1888.**

**Christmas Dates.** Mrs Logue has written to everyone with all the dates for the next two and a half weeks. Spare copies are in the office and also on the website. Please make sure you have a copy.



**Dinner Money.** I wrote last week about the urgent need to reduce the dinner money debt. Thanks to those that have settled their outstanding balance. From next week the debt policy ratified by the governors comes into force. If any family still owes any dinner money then please make sure the debt is settled on Monday morning.

**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. After Christmas I aim to send this letter electronically to reduce our carbon footprint, so please ensure your e mail address is correct as without it you will not be able to receive a home/school letter.

**Dropping off at school** Once again I write to ask all drivers to exercise great caution when driving up to school. With the darker night, gloomy mornings and icy roads please can all drivers be extra vigilant when arriving at school. We had a near miss yesterday morning; please drive sensibly and carefully outside the front of school.

**Some Key Dates for the week ahead: Week beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Parent drop in sessions 3.15-4.00pm for Rec-Y2.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Y3 visiting St Martin’s “Prayer Space”. Christmas tree arrives!

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December non-uniform day.

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

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> EYFS Nativity 9.15am. Choir/Recorders concert 10.45am

**Extra Curricular Clubs: Week beginning Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 3.15pm-4.00pm**

**Please note All Clubs will finish on Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Beginning again Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

| 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 December 2nd 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:**

**Please pray for:** Our school family/parish throughout Advent.

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

M. Aldred Head teacher

