



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

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**Week beginning Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Thought for the week:**

**“You should do something because you want to, not because you feel you have to”**

**ADVENT 2017.** Our week began on Sunday with our Family Mass. It was wonderful to see so many families join us to celebrate the first week of Advent. We lit the first purple candle which symbolises ‘*hope*’. We can have hope because God is faithful and he will keep the promises he made to us. Indeed our hope comes from God! Thank you to Mr Barton for organising our Mass. In assembly on Monday we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath and celebrated all the Advent promises we have made in class. We talked together about the symbols on the Advent wreath, it is circular in shape because like God’s love a circle has no beginning and no end; it is covered in evergreens to show that God’s love is also everlasting and finally that there are different coloured candles that represent different ideas, this week being “hope”. Advent is divided into two parts waiting for Jesus to come again (hence the need to be awake), and waiting for Jesus to be born on Christmas day. Advent is a time to get ready, a time to prepare and a time to remember that “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Congratulations to all the children from Y3R and Y3W who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. Well done to all the boys and girls who took the next step in their Sacramental journey and thank you to Fr Simon, Mr Barton, Miss Ward and Miss Riley for all their hard work preparing the children.

**Real Life Nativity.** Our youngest pupils were out and about at the start of the week. Nursery visited Ash End Farm and Reception visited Polesworth Abbey and saw a real life Nativity scene. Thank you to Mrs Whitty and the team in EYFS for overseeing these visits.

**EYFS Nativities** On Thursday and Friday we saw the Nursery and Reception classes stage the Nativity story for parents. Well done to all the children who spoke and sang well for their Mummies, Daddies and visitors. It was a lovely way to end our school week with our youngest pupils echoing the message of Christmas.

**School Choir** Well done to our Choir from Year 5 and Year 6 who visited Beech Hill Grange Nursing Home and Hollywood Nursing home on Thursday. Thank you to Mr Barton and Mrs Prentice for taking the children to share some festive carols with our friends in the local area. Our choir were very well received and they were excellent ambassadors for our school. Well Done!

**ParentPay.** Thankyou to everyone who has signed up and is using our new interactive payment tool. There is now a direct link to the site from the home page on our website if parents find that an easier route into ParentPay. Dinner money and Breakfast club money can now be paid via ParentPay (Milk money can be paid from next week). Another word of thanks to Mrs Clegg and Mrs Cooney for all their help in setting up ParentPay, there was a lot of work involved in getting it ready so many thanks.

**School Mass.** Thanks to Y2 for leading our Mass today and also to Miss Dunne for organising the readers. Our next Mass will be on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December for Years 1-4 at 9.15 am in church.**

**Christmas 2017.** Please make sure you buy a raffle for the Christmas raffle which will be held on the last day of term. There are numerous prizes as well as an iPad!!!!!! Tickets will be on sale in classes from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 50p each.

**Winter weather.** The first snow of 2017 fell today and more is due over the weekend. Hopefully it won't be too disruptive but in the event of significant snow fall school will do the following:

- **Place a message on the website homepage indicating the school is closed.**
- **A text will be sent out to all the contact details we currently have.**
- **Local Radio stations (BBC WM and Free Radio) will announce school closures on air and through social media.**

Hopefully the weather won't be too bad and we won't need any of the above.

**Food Bank** Our School Council will be holding their final food bank collection for the term on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please send in a tin or any item you can spare from the cupboards. The proceeds will go to St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham.

**Christmas Dates.** Mrs Logue has written to everyone about all the Christmas events which are taking place over the next two weeks. Spare copies are in the office. Please make sure you have a copy. Reminders for events will be sent by text.

**Dinner Money** A polite reminder to all families to reduce the dinner money debt. Thanks to those that have settled their outstanding balance. If any family still owes any dinner money then please make sure the debt is settled by the end of term. Many thanks.

**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.

**After School Clubs** All after school clubs for this term have finished from yesterday. Mrs Logue will write to you in the new year about details for after school clubs that will commence again in January 2018.

**Marvellous ME** This week school launched the app MarvellousMe for parents. We have had a great response from parents. Keep checking to see if your child has earned a badge or reward. Don't forget to send back a 'high five!'

**Attendance for week ending December 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

Year Group	% Attendance
Y1F	98%
Y1C	94%
Y2L	95%
Y2D	96%
Y3W	97%
Y3R	99%
Y4P	95%
Y4A	96%
Y5	97%
Y6	99%
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>97%</b>

**Christmas Holiday.** We break up on **Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1.00pm** returning at the normal time on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> for the spring term 2018.

**Happy Birthday:** Z'naya Cunningham, Shalom Satwekar, Shayden Spence, Lily Bate, Braeden Adams and David Bujnowski - Dudek

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

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

M. Aldred Head teacher

