



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Perry Common Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7AB

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**Week beginning Monday December 18th 2017.**

**Thought for the week:**

**“Advent increases our Hope”**

**ADVENT 2017.** “Gaudete Sunday” is upon us as we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. A candle of joy, a candle that marks us moving into the second part of Advent when we get ready for Jesus being born on Christmas day. A time to remember those people that find this time of year difficult. For some families this can be a worrying time, a time of sadness for lots of different reasons. As we continue our preparations it is important we remember those that are anxious, sad worried or lonely this Christmas.

**Final Mass of the term.** Our final Mass of the term will now take place next Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at the usual time. I am indebted to father for allowing us to change the date as the weather this morning was treacherous. Many children and staff were late into school this morning so hopefully by next Friday the frosty weather will have all but disappeared.

**Nursery Trip.** The gridlock around school this morning coupled with the icy conditions led to us cancelling the trip Nursery had planned. We are looking at alternative dates/shows early in the New Year and will let everyone know as and when we sort something out.

**Christmas at St Margaret Marys Church.** Father Simon and his family will be spending their second Christmas in Perry Common this year. I know I can speak on his behalf in inviting as many of you as possible to Mass over the Christmas period. The times of Mass are:

*Christmas Eve special crib service for children 3.00pm.*

*Christmas Eve Mass at 11.30pm.*

*Christmas day Mass will be at 10.00am.*

**Cold Weather.** Unfortunately we had to close school on Monday and Tuesday of this week. This is never ideal and I was grateful that the local authority issued a blanket decision to close all schools on Monday. The decision on Tuesday however was left up to individual Head Teachers bearing in mind local conditions. I took the decision to close school again as the school site and surrounding area was still unsafe. As a Head Teacher this is not something that I would ever want to do, indeed the school was last closed for snow back in 2010. The method of communicating such a decision is via local media, our own Twitter feed, the homepage of our school website and via text message. I trust everyone managed to be made aware of the decision in time to make the necessary arrangements, I also hope you understand my reasons for closing school on Tuesday. I sincerely hope that is it for this winter and I thank everyone for their understanding and patience.

**Christmas Concerts 2017.** Due to the closure Y1 will now host their concert on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Y2 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> with Y3 performing on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> all at 9.00am. To all Y1-Y3 parents thank you for your understanding and I hope the change of dates isn't too much of an inconvenience.

**Y4 Christmas Concert.** Thanks to Y4 for their concert yesterday, thanks to all the staff for their input into it.



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**Y5&Y6 Concert.** Thanks to our oldest children for their lovely concert this morning, thanks to all the staff for ending our somewhat difficult week on such an uplifting note.

**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.

**Mrs Jacqueline Gillam.** It is with much sadness that I have to write and tell everyone of the decision of Jacqui to retire this Christmas. Jacqui has been in St Margaret Marys kitchen for 36 years and has been responsible for preparing hundreds of dinners over her many years with us. Lots of parents will have been served dinners by Jacqui (dare I say some grandparents may even remember her!!) as have many children. Come rain or shine Jacqui has walked down the length of Perry Common Road to cook dinners for our children, she has been a constant in the kitchen and a true friend to our school. Our children will miss Jacqui, the staff will also miss her greatly (especially on pizza and chips day!)

On a personal note Jacqui has been a great help to me over the years when for example we have had to change arrangements for dinner time. She has also been a great help when we have needed lunches made for a school trip and a great help over the years in making our school kitchen run so smoothly. I will miss her cheery wave every morning as she comes into work and I will also miss learning more slang brummie expressions. I hope she can now at least class me as an "honorary brummie".

After over 36 years Jacqui deserves a rest, and on behalf of everyone I want to thank her for everything she has done over many years. I wish her a long and happy retirement with Phil and her many grandchildren.

***Happy Retirement and a sincere thank you Mrs Gillam!!***

**Christmas Dinner Day 2017.** A reminder that next **Wednesday 20th** will see our traditional Christmas dinner served to over 300 children and staff. The tables will be decorated in the hall and the children will have a super lunch particularly enjoying pulling a cracker! Mrs Hawthorn our cook will be in school very early, she and her team work extremely hard each year to produce a lovely dinner for all of us. To her and her team (Mrs Savings, Mrs Farrell and Mrs Gillam for the last time!!) Thank you in advance for our Christmas Dinner!

**Attendance for the term ending December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017**

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

**Happy Birthday:** Rozalia Szewc, Ethan Samuels, Tymoteusz Szczudlyk, Bethlehem Mekonnen, Kevyn Jumanan, Marcel Stobbe, Umar Aslam, Rikarai Walsh and Elochukwu Onyiuke.

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

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

M. Aldred Head teacher



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