



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### Week beginning Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

**Thought for the week:**  
**“Awake, Awake, Be Ready!”**

Dear Parents,

**ADVENT 2018.** Our week will begin on Sunday with our Family Mass. We will light 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 in advance to Mr Barton for organising our Mass. In assembly on Monday, we will light the first candle on our Advent wreath and celebrate all the Advent promises we have made in class. We will talk 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 ahead 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, “Jesus is the reason for the season”.

**Blessing of the new Building.** Yesterday was a very special day for our school. Archbishop Bernard officially blessed and opened our new building after celebrating mass with us in our parish church. So much effort went into the “new building” and yesterday really was a fitting way to end that process. I am grateful to so many people who helped, advised, put up with inconvenience and showed great patience that it would be remiss of me if I did not mention them. To Ian Martin, the Architect for his wise advice and expertise, to Father Simon, Mr Duffy and their respective families who had to endure considerable inconvenience and mess I am truly grateful. To the governors for helping to bring the project to fruition, the staff for their incredible understanding and patience and finally the children. To those that left in July and those still here for putting up with a reduced playground and little or no extracurricular activities during the building work I am also grateful. Finally, I am indebted to Archbishop Bernard for giving his time to come along yesterday and help us mark such a special day for everyone at St Margaret Marys. If I have missed anyone out I apologise, I hope everyone agrees it was worth it!

**KS2 Retreat Day.** On Thursday, Dan Callow and Emily Clarke visited us again to lead KS2 through their retreat day. Thanks to Dan and Emily for another wonderful day in school.

**Christmas Holiday 2018-2019.** School closes on **Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1.00pm.**



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**Family Mass Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.00am.** A final reminder that our next “family Mass” takes place on Sunday. This will mark the beginning of Advent and we will be thinking about all the children in Y3 about to make their First Confession. Please do make a note in your diaries of the second we will need help in the choir and with the readings. **All the Y3 children making their first Confession are expected to attend and need to be in Church by 9:45am on the day.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation 2018.** Thanks to everyone for braving the cold and coming along on Tuesday, thanks to Mr Barton for leading the meeting.

**2M INSPIRE Workshops.** Thanks to Y2M parents for braving the elements yesterday. Thanks also to Mrs Chandler and Miss Mochan for leading the workshop.

**Café Ceramica.** Well Done Y5, Mrs Attwood, Miss McCarron and Mrs Williams for representing our school so well yesterday. On another note thanks to both our mini bus drivers (Mrs Cooney and Mr Connaughton) an often forgotten ingredient that without which so many of our trips could not take place.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs.** *After school clubs for the autumn term end this week (Friday November 30<sup>th</sup>)* Thank you to everyone that led a club and supported them in any way. They will start up again in January.

**Teacher Days 2019.** In 2019, our remaining teacher days will be Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>, Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Attendance for the week ending November 23rd 2018**

Year Group	% Attendance
Rec W	77%
RecF	99%
Y1P	95%
Y1F	92%
Y2C	87%
Y2M	94%
Y3B	100%
Y3T	91%
Y4R	97%
Y4D	95%
Y5M	99%
Y5A	89%
Y6B	94%
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>93%</b>

**Happy Birthday:**

**Please pray for** Please pray for Y3 as they finalise their preparations for the Sacrament of Reconciliation next week.

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

M. Aldred Head teacher



SCHOOL MEMBER



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