



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

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**Week beginning Monday December 12th 2016.**

**Thought for the week:**

**“The heart that loves is always young”**

**ADVENT 2016.** Our week began with our Advent assembly. Mr Barton led the school into the second week of Advent by telling the children the story of the Christmas truce. A time when people put aside their supposed differences and marked Christmas by playing a simple game of football. This true story has been written and spoken about many times; it does however remain a truly remarkable event. An event when soldiers stopped fighting and entered into the “Christmas spirit”. Our second candle was lit on the Advent wreath, a candle of “peace”, a candle to represent the “Christmas truce”. During Advent we are challenged to get ready and to be prepared. We are also asked to examine ourselves and how we could bring peace to others for example. Like the soldiers in the first world war who put down their weapons, this Advent season is a chance for all of us to bring peace to others.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday December 8th at 1.30pm.**

Congratulations to all the boys and girls that made their first Confession yesterday. Many thanks to everyone that came along and supported the programme of preparation. Thanks to Mr Barton for overseeing everything, a special word of thanks to Father Simon. Thursday marked Father’s first Sacrament since his arrival at St Margaret Marys. I want to thank him for his input and help in getting the children ready for yesterday.

**Whole School Mass.** To mark the end of term the whole school will be going across to Church on **Tuesday 20th at 9.15am.** Everyone is welcome to join us as we continue our Advent preparations. During this Mass the Y3 children who made their First Confession on Thursday will be presented with their certificates. Thanks to Y3 for leading our Mass yesterday on the feast of the “Immaculate Conception”.

**Christmas Week.** Next week is Christmas week in school; we have a number of lovely events/activities planned, please see below further details.

**Christmas Dinner Day 2016.** **Tuesday 20th** will see our traditional Christmas dinner served to over 300 children and staff. The tables will be decorated in the dining 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) Thank you in advance for our Christmas Dinner!

**Christmas Decorations.** Our school was decorated this week in readiness for Christmas, the tree, lights and decorations were all put up on Tuesday after school, thanks to everyone for their help.

**EYFS Nativity.** Thanks to our Reception children for their lovely Nativity this morning. Thanks to Mrs Crossen, Mrs Hayes and all the team in Reception who helped to tell us the Christmas story this morning.

**School choir.** Thank you to Mrs Prentice and our wonderful school choir for their uplifting concert earlier today. It really was super, a testament to everyone’s hard work and dedication. A quick mention of Mrs Prentice and the impact she has had across school. This was evident this morning with our wonderful singers but also in her coming to play at Mass on Fridays and on Sundays in Church. Her support is very much appreciated.

**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.**



**Christmas Dates 2016.** Please find below some key dates and times for the final week and a half, of this term:

12/12/16	Reception are visiting Polesworth Abbey to see baby Jesus in his stable.
13/12/16	Nursery and KS 2 at the theatre.
14/12/16	Nursery Nativity 10.30am and 1.30pm.
15/12/16	Y1 Nativity 9.00am Y2&Y3 Nativity 10.30am Nursery visiting Ash End Christmas farm.
16/12/16	Y4 Nativity 9.00am Y5/6 Nativity 1.30pm
19/12/16	Christmas jumper day Special visitor in school visiting KS1!!
20/12/16	Whole school end of term Mass Christmas dinner day Non uniform – Christmas Theme
21/12/16	End of Term, school closes at 1.00pm. 9/1/17 children return to school.

**Extra Curricular Clubs:** These have now finished for the autumn term, many thanks to all the teachers for their hard work and dedication over the last 15 weeks. Thanks also to everyone that came along to any of the clubs this term; they will begin again on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**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.

**Attendance for week ending December 9th 2016.**

Year Group	% Attendance
Reception H	92%
<b>Reception C</b>	<b>97%</b>
Y1F	98%
Y1M	97%
Y2C	98%
Y2D	98%
Y3	98%
Y4	97%
Y5	96%
Y6	96%
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>97%</b>

**Happy Birthday:** Sinead Walsh, Ava Dunn, Nicole Croft, Brandon Burchell, Rebecca Jenkinson and Zachary Ashwin.

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

**Mrs Hayes.** It is with much sadness that I have to write and tell everyone that Mrs Hayes is leaving our school at the end of term. I know I speak on behalf of everyone in thanking her for her enormous contribution to St Margaret Marys. In particular I would like to thank her for her work in helping us set up and establish our Nursery. A now thriving unit, that continues to grow and evolve, thanks mainly to her efforts. I want to wish her well in her new role and on behalf of everyone thank Mrs Hayes for her time at St Margaret Marys.

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

M. Aldred Head teacher

