



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week beginning Monday December 17th 2018.

**Thought for the week:
"Advent increases our hope"**

Dear Parents,

ADVENT 2018. "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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation 2018. Congratulations to everyone in 3T who made their First Confession on Tuesday. The children were a credit to Ms Travers and our school. Special mention must be made of Mr Barton who organised, led and managed this occasion.

Christmas at St Margaret Marys Church.

The times of Mass are:

Christmas Eve special crib service for children 4.00pm.

Christmas Eve Mass at 11.30pm.

Christmas day Mass will be at 10.00am.

St Stephen's Day Servers Guild Mass 10.00am

Christmas Week in school. Next week we have many lovely activities planned. Monday will see the week begin with our Advent assembly. On Tuesday, I have managed to secure a visit from Father Christmas; despite his rather hectic schedule, he has agreed to pay us a visit on Tuesday morning. Wednesday is Christmas dinner day and Christmas Non uniform day whilst Thursday and Friday will see the choir visiting two nursing homes to sing some traditional carols. We also have our final foodbank collection on Thursday and our final Mass of the term on Thursday. An awful lot of planning and preparation goes into next week so to ALL concerned a huge THANK YOU! **Nursery Nativity.** The re arranged Nursery nativity takes place on Tuesday 18th at 9.00am **Christmas Holiday 2018-2019. School closes on Friday December 21st at 1.00pm. We return to school at the normal time on Monday January 7th 2019.**



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Dinner Money A polite reminder to all families to reduce the dinner money debt. Thanks to those that have settled their outstanding balance. **Autumn term balances must be settled today December 14th.** Many thanks.

Christmas Plays/Nativities 2018. Many thanks to everyone for the wonderful plays this year, the children told the Christmas story in a variety of ways all of which were special. I am particularly indebted to Mrs Logue for overseeing them all in my absence.

Mrs Lesley Teague. It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to write and tell everyone of Mrs Teague's decision to leave us next week. Lesley has been at St Margaret Marys for 16 years and throughout that time has fulfilled a variety of different roles. She has worked with numerous children, been on many school trips (including our residential visit) and overseen our Breakfast Club for a number of years. I must however; make particular mention of one other aspect of Mrs Teague's work, Lesley manages and oversees medicines/inhalers/care plans and accidents in school. This aspect of school life, for obvious reasons, is one of real importance and to fulfil such a role you need to possess a number of different skills. Lesley always has her lunchtime interrupted looking after children making sure they are safe and well. Lesley always fulfils this role with dedication and care. Mrs Teague's departure leaves a huge hole in our school; she has been a valued, trusted and loyal colleague/friend for an awful long time, someone who has always put our children first. On behalf of everyone, I would like to write to thank her for everything she has contributed to St Margaret Marys over the last 16 years; for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to our school, **THANK YOU**. I would like to wish her well with her new venture. All of us at St Margaret Marys will indeed miss Mrs Teague.

Attendance for the autumn term 2018 to date

Year Group	% Attendance
Rec W	95%
Rec F	97%
Y1P	96%
Y1F	94%
Y2C	94%
Y2M	97%
Y3B	97%
Y3T	96%
Y4R	97%
Y4D	96%
Y5M	97%
Y5A	95%
Y6B	97%
Termly Average	96%

Happy Birthday: Braeden, Rozalia, Ethan, Bethlehem, Kevyn, Umar, Elochukwu, Rikarai, Elsie, Subhan, and Keon.

Please pray for our school and parish this Christmas. Please keep in your thoughts those less fortunate than ourselves, the homeless, the anxious, the lonely and those who for whatever reason, find this time of year particularly difficult.



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