



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

Head Teacher: Mr M. Aldred  
Chair of Governors: Fr. Simon Ellis  
Parish Priest: Fr. Simon Ellis

Tel: 0121 464 6355 Fax: 0121 464 8558  
E-mail: enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk  
Website: www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk  
Twitter: @StMargMaryRC

### **Week beginning Monday December 2nd 2019.**

#### **Thought for the week:**

**“Stay Awake and Be Ready!”**

Dear Parents,

**ADVENT 2019.** 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”.

**Family Mass Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10.00am.** *On behalf of Father Simon and indeed the whole school, I would like to extend another invitation to join us for our Family Mass this Sunday. Coming together as a school family to celebrate Mass is the perfect way of starting our Advent preparations so do please join us on December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Y3 Reconciliation Workshop.** Thanks to those Y3 families that came along earlier this week to the Reconciliation workshop. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place next week in class groups. Thanks to Mr Barton for leading the meeting.

**School Mass.** Thank you to Y6 and Y3 for leading our Mass this morning, next week our Mass will be led by Y5 and Y2.

**Car Park.** A continued plea to everyone to remain extremely vigilant using the car park. The cold and dark evenings can prove problematic so please park and use the facility considerately.

**Music Service Filming.** Today the Music Service has filmed some of our musicians for training purposes. St Margaret Mary’s was chosen due to the outstanding Music provision in school. Well done to everyone that was filmed/interviewed you were a credit to our school.



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**Attendance.** Our attendance is slowly improving, comparing it to this time last year there is a definite improvement. School does however still receive too many holiday requests, none of these can be sanctioned by school and I ask that everyone books holidays during the school holiday period. Our Family worker can support families and offer advice but please be aware that anyone under 95% attendance will be receiving letters from myself advising them of what course of action school plans to take. Please can I urge everyone to do his or her utmost to keep our attendance improving.

**Dan Callow Retreat Day.** What a wonderful day KS2 had yesterday. Dan and Emily helped us all start our Advent preparations with another thoughtful retreat day. These are now annual events in our calendar; the day is always a highlight and today was no exception. Many thanks to Dan and Emily for leading us through today “Waiting for Mary”. Thanks also to Mr Barton for organising everything. Dan and Emily will return in 2020.

**Film Day.** Thank you for supporting our film afternoon to mark “Blue Day”, a Happy St Andrew’s Day to everyone!

**Attendance for the week ending November 29<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Year Group	% Attendance
Rec M	87%
Rec R	94%
Y1J	100%
Y1P	99%
Y2B	92%
Y2M	98%
Y3C	96%
Y3P	99%
Y4M	98%
Y4Y	99%
Y5A	96%
Y5M	95%
Y6B	92%
Y6M	94%
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>96%</b>

**Happy Birthday:** Joshua, Zachary, Sinead and Ava.

**Please pray for:** Please pray for Father Richard. Could you also pray for our school and parish as Advent begins.

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

M. Aldred Head teacher



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