



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week beginning Monday December 14th 2020

Thought for the week: "Stay Awake Be Ready!"

Dear Parents,

ADVENT 2020. This weekend marks the third Sunday of Advent when we will light the third candle on our Advent wreath. Whilst the first candle represented "hope", the second purple candle symbolised "faith" or "love". The third candle is a different colour it is rose coloured or pink. The third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday, which comes from the Latin word "rejoice" hence the brightly coloured candle. It can often be seen as the halfway point through Advent as our attention turns directly to Jesus coming on Christmas day. In school, we were fortunate to join with CAFOD and other schools across the country for their virtual Advent assembly "Light of the World" yesterday. CAFOD have for many years, done splendid work helping those most in need across the world, a powerful message beautifully presented. Thanks to Mr Barton for overseeing the assembly as it was a lovely way to mark the third Sunday by joining with together to "get ready".

FSM Christmas Holiday Vouchers 2020. The plan is to allow eligible families to be able to access their vouchers from Wednesday 16th. Mrs Coney will communicate to those concerned when the vouchers are available. Getting them ready for next Wednesday is continuing to prove a logistical challenge so my thanks to Mrs Coney and Mr Connaughton for all they are doing to be ready for next week. The website will soon have a copy of the parent's booklet with "frequently asked questions" available for everyone if they need to use it. The deadline of next Wednesday however will also see school still in session and thus available to help those families that need any assistance.

Christmas 2020. I wrote last week and asked everyone to consider donating an item for our foodbank rather than exchanging presents. This year in particular there are many families struggling for a variety of different reasons. One item of food/treat from every family would really make a difference to a number of families in our local area so please do consider donating to our foodbank this year. Mrs Logue will have all the trolleys ready to receive your donations at the front and rear of school next Wednesday 16th. A footnote to the above, if any donations could



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be cakes, biscuits or general Christmas treats it could really help make the season special for others. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

Final Week. Despite the restrictions in place, the final week still has a number of Christmas activities planned. Monday will see the children making Christmas cards/crafts in class whilst on Tuesday every year group will be having a Christmas movie. Wednesday will see Christmas dinner served to the individual bubbles. Everyone can wear their own “Christmas clothes” on Wednesday. Please remember to donate to our foodbank on Wednesday. Finally, as a result of extensive negotiations and despite the restrictions I have managed to secure a visit from someone very special on Wednesday. He cannot stay long as he is very busy, but Father Christmas has agreed he will come along and visit KS1.

Sadly, it can't be completely what school would normally do but the children will still experience a lovely Christmas week in school, culminating with our special visitor on Wednesday.

End of term dates. School will break up for the Christmas holiday at 3:00pm on Thursday December 18th. The children return to school on Monday January 4th 2021.

Coronavirus checklist for the Christmas break.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Parents will need to notify school via the e-mail address enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk. This e-mail address will be monitored throughout the day.

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

Ms Emma Farmer. Emma completes her placement with us next week after working across school in a variety of different year groups. I want to write and thank Emma and wish her well in her next venture

Christmas Mass times at St Margaret Mary Church

Christmas Eve 4pm Mass 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Mass 11am Mass (Divine Worship).

Please pray for: Please pray for Collette Hickey RIP. Collette worked for many years at Christ the King and will be missed by many. Please can I also ask you to pray for Anne Forrest a onetime governor, and longstanding friend of our school, Anne is recovering in hospital, Get Well Soon Anne!



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Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.
M Aldred. Head teacher.



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Book Skills
Quality Mark
10 Year Award



Wellbeing Award
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