



St Mary's Catholic Academy

Newsletter No.4 – Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of term and school is as busy as ever. Please read this newsletter so you are aware of all that is going on.

Dates for your diary

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|--|-------------------------------|
| Mon 29 th Nov | Advent Retreat – non uniform |
| Fri 10 th Dec 10:30, 2.15pm | EYFS Christmas Songs |
| Mon 13 th Dec 10:30 – 1:30 | Nursery Christmas party |
| Tues 14 th Dec | Christmas dinner & jumper day |
| Wed 15 th Dec | KS1 Performance – see below |
| Thurs 16 th Dec | KS2 Christmas Performance |
| Fri 17 th Dec | Break-up |
| Tue 4th Jan 2022 | Return to School |

Christmas Productions

It is great to hear the excitement building for Christmas throughout school. As we prepare, unfortunately we are still experiencing regular updates from families about positive COVID cases in our school community. We must remain cautious whenever we come together.

EYFS songs: Fri 10:30am, 2:15pm 10th December

Parents are welcome to purchase a total of 2 tickets. There is a maximum of 60 seats for each session. Please only purchase 2 tickets. If you buy more, the later date will be cancelled and refunded. The tickets are on +Pay on a first come, first served basis.

KS1 production: Wed 10am, 2pm 15th December

As with EYFS, parents are welcome to purchase 2 tickets in total.

KS2 production: Thurs 10am, 1:30pm 16th December

As with EYFS and KS1, parents are welcome to purchase 2 tickets as described above. There is a maximum of 120 tickets for each performance – a larger number as the performance is held in St Mary's church.

For all performances, you can either buy 2 tickets for one performance or 1 ticket for the morning and 1 for the afternoon. Tickets are £1 each.

As the productions are in the final week of term, we ask that all attending the performance wear a mask and that you follow new government guidance - taking a lateral flow test and receiving a negative result before attending.



Advent Retreat Day - Monday

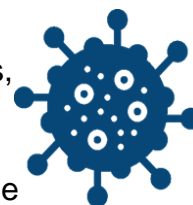
Non-uniform can be worn on Monday as we celebrate the start of Advent.



Children should bring in a £1 donation to raise money for two important charities that support our school – the Briars Residential Youth Centre and the Nottingham Music Hub.

COVID Update

In the last few weeks, we have had 4 confirmed cases of COVID in school. We are following our risk assessment closely to help keep this number as low as possible, especially as we approach the Christmas holidays. **Anyone with a cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell is being asked to take a PCR test and if a negative result is received, they can return to school.**

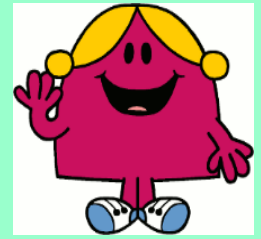


Children may be encouraged to have a PCR or at least a lateral flow test linked to other illnesses e.g. diarrhoea. COVID symptoms in children can be different for children.

Please source some lateral flow tests for home so that you have them to hand if required.

Chatterbox

Teachers have been preparing Chatterbox each week since half term. The purpose of Chatterbox is to provide you with opportunities to talk about your child's learning with them at home. As well as enjoying a conversation with your child, it will support them in remembering their learning. Please let me know how useful these are for you by making a quick response, following this link.



LINK: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RGw8iocv6kquk_8WueyVlpZsxjqEO9VKr2jeKuPLB5FUM1ozWFBVVFNBUIEwUzINSktVQzJVQUxTWC4u

If they are valuable, we will continue creating them next term.

Punctuality

School begins at 8:50am. Nursery begins at 8:40am and 12:30pm in the afternoon. Arriving after this means that your child is late and joins their class when the rest of the children are settling to their work.

Please make every effort to ensure your child has time for their breakfast at home and reaches the school gate in plenty of time for the school bell.

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day

Christmas jumper and dinner day will be held on 14th December. No money is required on the day. If your child usually pays for their school dinner, please make sure this is ordered by: Fri 3rd Dec. This is the final deadline.

We do hope that all children order a Christmas dinner as it's a special part of the festivities, building up to Christmas.



Equally Safe

At St. Mary's we are working with an organisation called Equally Safe who are helping us to evaluate our provision to ensure we are fully inclusive and promote equality in all we do. I would really appreciate you taking 5-10 minutes to complete the questionnaire following the link below. Some of the questions are similar to the parents evening survey you completed at parents evening. Apologies for this.

Children and staff will be completing their own survey. Following this, we have Saira Hassan visiting school on Thursday 2nd December from Equally Safe who will support school in reviewing our policies, including anti-bullying and behaviour.

**EQUALLY
SAFE**

Link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RGw8iocv6kquk_8WueyVlpZsxjqEO9VKr2jeKuPLB5FUNjFaMUdZVKVVTIzSNEZUV0k0U0ZXMDM0Vi4u

Thank you for your support with this.

Data Collection

Before Christmas, I will be sending out a data collection form. This will replace any data consent that you have provided before now, for example, your consent for photographs to be taken of your child.

Please try to complete the form over the Christmas break. Each child requires their own form completing.

Holiday Requests

If you are expecting to take your child out of school for a day or more, you must complete a 'holiday request form'.

Absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and where your child's attendance is good and has been good for some time.

Please avoid taking your child/ren out of school wherever possible.

Parent Governor

Please consider becoming a parent Governor for St Mary's. We have one position available. More information will be sent out next week telling you how to put your name forwards or nominate someone else.

Thank you. Mrs Bell