



# St Mary's Catholic Academy



Newsletter No.3 – 6th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after a very soggy half term. As we approach the joyful season of Advent, we will be praying for peace and unity in our unsettled world. Pope Francis says, 'Prayer is powerful'. In school this half term, we will be looking for ways to act of the churches social teaching, by truly loving our neighbour.

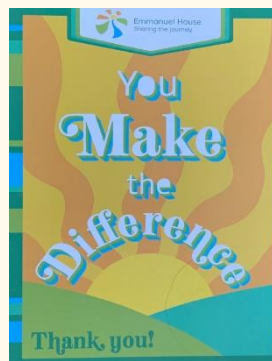
## Dates for your diary

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual and Sibling School Photographs
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week – <b>Odd Socks Day</b>
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> November	EYFS and KS1 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	KS2 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations – for those who have signed their child up
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole School Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	First Sunday of Advent Mass 11am – led by our children
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Retreat Day – non-uniform
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> December	The Dog Trust assembly and workshops – safety around dogs
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance at 10am and 2pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 invited to Reconciliation with Father David 10:40am
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas Songs 9:30am and 2pm
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco EYFS/KS1 4 – 5:15pm, KS2 5:30 – 6:45pm
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Service – traditional carols and readings
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Final day of term – <b>children return on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>

## Thank you

Once again, as a community, a vast amount of food was collected at our Harvest celebration. The school chaplaincy team led the school beautifully in prayer and reminded us of all the people who are struggling in today's challenging world.

Nearly £70 was raised for CAFOD. Bags of food were delivered to Emmanuel House and also to Salaam Shalom Soup Kitchen. Salaam Shalom Kitchen (SaSh) is a heart-warming initiative in Hyson Green, Nottingham, bringing together the Muslim and Jewish communities to serve hot meals and create a welcoming space for anyone in need.



Both charities were extremely grateful of our support and want you to know how grateful they are. Further information can be found:

<https://www.emmanuelhouse.org.uk/>  
SaSh - <https://himmah.org/projects/>

## Punctuality



A few families are regularly running into school after the school bell has rung. Please leave home a few minutes earlier. Being on time is important and children need to learn that punctuality is important in life.

Children should be on the playground **before** the bell rings.

**School gates open at 8:35am.**

Thank you for your support

## Anti-Bullying Week 2023

Together with schools across the country, we will be 'Making a Noise About Bullying' starting on Monday 13th with our Odd Socks Day. Children should wear their brightest, most different socks they can find.



Children will share their learning with you at their Congratulations assembly.

- EYFS /KS1 Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November
- KS2 Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> November



**If you ever feel like your child is struggling with friendships in school or you hear about a child that is unhappy, speak to your child's class teacher! Make a noise – don't wait!**

### Fantastic Monthly Internet Safety Newsletters



October's - Click [HERE](#)  
November's – Coming soon

**School Attendance**  
**97.9%**  
so far this year  
**Thank you**

### Parent Forum – ALL WELCOME

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
3:20 - 3:45pm



All parents / carers are invited to a very informal meeting where we will discuss things that are happening in the school, including thoughts and ideas you may have and so on. It's an opportunity for us to work together in partnership to make our school a stronger, richer community.

We can discuss:

The smaller Congratulations assemblies and whether you prefer these in the morning or afternoon.

What ideas do you have for the school disco? Can you help?  
Did you feel you got plenty of information from your recent parents' evening meeting?

Please support your child by attending this meeting. Thank you.

### Packed Lunches

School Council have been discussing the contents of packed lunches children bring from home. The children understand that food needs to be a healthy balance, contributing to their diet for the day. Newsround advises children (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/61433720>) that lunch should include:



- At least one fruit and one vegetable. Fruit and vegetables are a good source of vitamins that your body needs to function.
- One source of protein - things like eggs, meat, fish or beans. Protein helps our bodies to repair and grow.
- Carbohydrates, which give you energy, are in things like bread, potatoes or pasta.
- Dairy and dairy alternatives such as cheese or yoghurt. Dairy or alternatives provide calcium which is good for your bones.
- Drinking milk or water are two of the best options for children because they are low in sugar and tooth-friendly.

School council have agreed that as part of a balanced diet, a little tasty treat each day is okay. The school council will send out some more information in the next week or so.

Thank you for your on-going support. *Anne-Marie Bell*