



St Mary's Catholic Academy



Newsletter No.4 – 27th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. I write with just a few updates and some information. Please have a read to ensure you are aware of all that is happening in the weeks ahead, building up to Christmas.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 30 th November	Whole School Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Sun 3 rd December	First Sunday of Advent Mass 11am – led by our children. Children arrive 10:45am in school uniform
Mon 4 th December	Advent Retreat Day – non-uniform
Tues 5 th December	The Dog Trust assembly and workshops – safety around dogs
Thurs 7 th December	KS1 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Wed 13 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance at 10am and 2pm
Wed 13 th December	KS2 invited to Reconciliation with Father David at 10:40am
Thurs 14 th December	KS2 Congratulations Assembly 2:30pm
Fri 15 th December	EYFS Christmas Songs 9:30am and 2pm
Mon 18 th December	Christmas Disco EYFS/KS1 4 – 5:15pm, KS2 5:30 – 6:45pm
Wed 20 th December	KS2 Carol Service – traditional carols and readings 2pm
Thurs 21 st December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day (non-uniform)
Fri 22 nd December	Final day of term – children return on Monday 8th January 2024

Punctuality

Punctuality remains a concern. One-off lateness can sometimes not be helped but there are several families running through the gate AFTER the bell has gone day after day. **School starts at 8:45am.**

School gates open at 8:35am. I will be arranging meetings with parents/carers where lateness is regular and an improvement is not made.



KS1 Morning Entry

EYFS and KS1 children must be brought into the playground by a grown up each morning. Please do not leave your child at the gate to enter school on their own.

Thank you.



Parent Forum – Summary of Discussion

Firstly, a massive THANK YOU to those who took the time to attend the recent meeting. It is so important that I hear from parents / carers to help ensure you are happy with how things run day-to-day in school and how we can make steps forward, as a community, for the good of our pr

Trip costs: Prices are rising, coach costs are a significant cause. Teachers will do their best to provide information about a trip as early as possible. This will allow at least a 2-part payment to be setup for families who wish to spread the cost of the trip over a few months.



Residentials: Parents attending the meeting agreed they value these trips (Y5 Perlethorpe, Y6 The Briars) but were concerned about the cost. The monthly payments are beneficial and following the meeting, the school will contact local Nottingham businesses to see if any can offer financial support.

Please read on...

Parent Forum – Continued



Celebration Assembly timings: The general feel, from parents / carers who attended the forum, was that mornings are better for parents. After Christmas, school will arrange the Celebration assemblies for a **Thursday morning - 9am** (January 2024), in hope it enables a greater number of parents to attend. Friday mornings would be favoured, but across the school we are busy with Music lessons each week. We will reflect again if Thursday mornings are not successful. I am keen for this to be an opportunity for parents to come and spend time together, if you wish, whether your child is being celebrated or not. Let's see how Thursdays go.

Connecting with the Parish: I mentioned that we are trying to make stronger links with St Mary's and St Paul's parish at the meeting. Leaflets have been provided to invite the parishioners to our Christmas celebrations. I am so grateful and delighted with the response for those joining us next Sunday – the First Sunday of Advent at St Mary's Church. More than 80 children are coming!! I am so looking forward to this occasion.

Nativity Performances: It was requested that we film the KS1 nativity and EYFS songs so that parents / carers are not required to use mobile phones to video the performances, which is never a good sight from the children's perspective. I need everyone's permission for this to happen. Staff will talk to parents /carers where there is a concern, to ensure we have permission and we hope to upload the performances on to our YouTube channel for people to view.



Foundation Governors: An information meeting is being held on Tuesday 10am and 4pm. All are welcome. To be a Foundation Governor for St Mary's, you must be a practising Catholic. You do not need to be attending St Mary's or St Paul's to make this possible. Please do come along if you are interested in supporting our school.

Communication: It was requested that school use text messaging more often instead of emails for communicating with parents. The office use text messages sparingly as they are expensive. 10 000 messages cost £480. This is equivalent to a whole school message being sent on 40 occasions. The messages cannot sometimes be simplified and therefore require 2 credits for each family, therefore 20 on some occasions.



The office use text messages where there is a **high** priority message. Please make sure you are checking your emails and record the dates on the diary above, to ensure you are well informed regarding school events. Text message are only used for last minute changes and a phone call is often used instead on such occasions. We welcome any feedback.

Reminder – No Gifts for School Staff please

We absolutely appreciate your generosity; however, like last year, we ask you kindly not to buy gifts for school staff at Christmas or at the end of the academic year. You are all so precious to us and we want you to save your money for your family needs. We hope you understand and are happy with this request.

Thank you 😊 St Mary's Staff x



The Wednesday Word shares Sunday's Gospel, connecting Home, School and Parish with the Sunday Gospel. We will send the Wednesday Word out regularly via email. Please share the Word with your child/ren to help them on their faith journey.

School Attendance 97.7% so far this year. **Thank you**

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – Thursday 21st December 2023

Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day will be held on Thursday 21st December. No money is required on the day and Christmas jumpers are NOT essential.

If your child usually pays for their school dinner, please make sure this is ordered by: Friday 1st December. We would love everyone to enjoy this special dinner together.

It is a lovely part of our school festivities.

If you have any Christmas jumpers your children have outgrown that you wish to donate, please drop them by the school office.



Christmas Productions

It is great to hear the excitement building for Christmas throughout school. As we prepare, it is brilliant to do so without the worry

KS1 production: 10am and 2pm Wednesday 13th December

As with EYFS, no tickets are required. Just turn up and enjoy the performance.

EYFS songs: 9:30am, 2:00pm Fri 15th December

Parents are welcome to attend either or both EYFS performances.

Tickets are not required this year. Why not come and enjoy a tea or coffee in the school hall beforehand? All are welcome.

KS2 lead Carol Service: 2pm Wednesday 20th December

The celebration will be held in St Mary's church.



Christmas Disco – Monday 18th December

The DJ is booked and children are already excitedly talking about the Christmas disco. To ensure the event is a success we need parent help.

Timings

4:00 – 5:15pm Reception (F2) and KS1 Christmas Disco

5:30 – 6:45pm KS2 Christmas Disco

Tickets for the disco are £1.50 which will include a hot dog and a packet of crisps. Any families with more than 2 children should speak to the school office about ticket prices.



Help from parents is essential to make this event a success. It is a Community rather than teacher-led event. We need the following help:

- Serving of food
- Parents to monitor visits to the toilet
- Support with behaviour in the hall
- Tidying up after the event

If you are available to help, please speak to the school office or email admin@smca.nottingham.sch.uk and we will be in touch with a plan for the evening.

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