



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please take a moment to read this newsletter so you are aware of all that is happening in school in the run up to Christmas.

## Dates for your diary

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Aspens are pizza making with Year 2 and Year 3
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Whole School Advent Retreat Day – <b>non-uniform</b>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Children are invited to Reconciliation with Father David in school
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am and 2pm EYFS Christmas Story and Songs
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am and 2pm KS1 Christmas Nativity
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	St Mary's Parish Mass lead by school children – all welcome
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas disco F2 & KS1 3:15 – 4:30pm, KS2 4:30 – 5:45pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper and Christmas dinner day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm KS2 Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Final day of term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to school
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	10am Whole school mass – all welcome

## REMINDER Pre-Christmas Appeal – Smartphone Free Childhood

*"When we give our children access to the whole world in their pocket, we give the whole world access to our children"*

This is just a reminder for you to consider avoiding buying your child a mobile phone before they are of an age that they need one. Children learn the difference in school between what 'I want' and what 'I need', so they are familiar with this language.

We are noticing a significant impact from children spending time on screens, rather than playing with toys, with others while interacting. Children are entering school with low communication and language skills; lower levels of self-care and their emotional wellbeing is also impacted. Please consider limiting your child's screen time where possible.

Please take a look at the website below for more information:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>



## Advent Mass



On **Sunday 15th December 2024**, we will be celebrating Mass with St Mary's Parish at **11am**.

It would be lovely if lots of our children and families come together to celebrate. Children will be leading the singing, readings and prayers.

Please click on the link below, completing the Form, to let me know if your child/ren will be attending.

Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5GQY8evyDQ>

## School Gates

I cannot thank you enough for your patience while we await the mending of the school gate. The Nursery gate has also become a more frequent problem and I thank you for using the main school gate during this time.

I am hoping both gates will be replaced before Christmas. I have a meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> November and I will provide more information when I know more.



## OPAL

What a response we have had so far to the appeal for our OPAL project. Thank you so much. The sheds are bulging with donations.



We are still taking donation so please keep a look out for the items on our bingo card.

Ms O'Neill and Mrs Brady will keep in touch with you regularly about the things we need to collect.

## Congratulations Assembly

Congratulations Assemblies are a lovely opportunity for us to celebrate children's achievements. There is usually a focus on academic achievement but we are very keen as a school to celebrate special achievements the children accomplish out of school. This may be a music grading, a swimming badge, a dance certificate... Achievements should be shared with your child's class teacher and they will ensure the award is mentioned.



### Dates for Congratulations Assemblies:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 9am

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 9am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9am

Parents/carers will receive an Arbor message when your child is chosen to receive a 'Congratulations' award. However, all parents are welcome to attend any of these assemblies. There may even be a cup of tea for you!

## Speaking of Congratulations...



During the October half term holidays, our lovely Ms Brady became Mrs Brady, as she married her partner in New York. This was a surprise for us all! As a community, we send our love and congratulations to Ted, Esther and Martha (who also was unaware until the day of the wedding)! We pray you have many years of happiness together.

## Monthly Internet Safety Newsletters



[Click HERE](#)

## Packed Lunches

Please can I emphasise the importance that children who have a home-prepared packed lunch **do not bring chocolate or sweets** to eat. Children's lunch boxes **must be healthy**, part of a balanced diet and ideas include:

- A healthy sandwich – sweet bread e.g. brioche is not encouraged
- A piece of fruit / dried fruit, vegetable sticks
- A yoghurt or cheese cubes
- One small treat-like food – crisps, small biscuit bar or cake.



Advice can be found here: [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS](#)

Encourage your child/ren to help try new foods and make their own healthy choices. School rules will be reviewed if unhealthy choices continue.

Thank you for all your support in all we do. Kind regards, Anne-Marie Bell