



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 2019

Thursday 10th January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope that you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas. The Vigil Mass in church on Christmas Eve was again a beautiful occasion and many thanks to all the staff, parents and pupils who helped to make it so. Many thanks also – on behalf of the whole staff - for the many kind words, cards and gifts which staff received in the run up to Christmas. Your generosity is very much appreciated. We wish you all a very happy and successful New Year.

WEDNESDAY WORD

This week's Wednesday Word is **BAPTISM**. It would be a great new year's resolution to spend some family time together each week reading through the Wednesday Word.

SCHOOL BUILDING FUND

We have added an option to pay the School Building Fund contribution via Parent Mail. The appeal for contributions is made each year. The suggested voluntary contribution is £15 per child, but you are free to give more or less than this.

UPDATED SCHOOL WEBSITE

We have added a 'Vacancies' page to our school website, advertising our current employment vacancies in school. Please have a look at <http://stmarysprimarydukinfield.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

OUR NEXT MASS IN SCHOOL

Our next mass in school will take place tomorrow, Friday 11th January 2019. This will be a staff mass. Parents, carers and friends are all very welcome to attend any and all of our school masses.

ADMISSIONS POLICY PROPOSED CHANGES

We are currently consulting on proposed changes to our admissions policy for entry to school in the academic year 2020-2021. We would welcome your comments. All the relevant information (as well as how to respond) is on the school website at <http://stmarysprimarydukinfield.co.uk/about-us/policies/>

SPONSORED SPELL & HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

All our pupils took spellings home over the Christmas holiday in order to be as familiar with them as possible for the Sponsored Spell. These words will be tested in the week commencing Monday 14th January. Please help your child to learn these spellings and please help them to gather sponsorship money, in aid of school funds. All money raised should be returned to school by **Monday 21st January**. Many thanks in advance for all your hard work in learning spellings and collecting sponsors. There will be a prize for the one child in school who raises the most sponsorship money. The most successful spellers from each class will proceed to the next round of the competition – our school Spelling Bee.

YEAR 3 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The next meeting for the Sacramental Programme will be a workshop for parents/carers and the children from Year 3. This will take place in school **TONIGHT** - Thursday 10th January at 6.00pm. There will be a Family Mass for Year 3 pupils and their families at St Mary's Church, Zetland Street, Dukinfield on Sunday 13th January at **10.30am**. If we have not yet seen your child's baptismal certificate, please bring it along to the meeting on 10th January. We would also like you to bring any leftover wrapping paper, ribbons and bows etc. from Christmas – along with a cardboard box (no larger than a breakfast cereal box). Many thanks in advance.

SMOKE FREE GATES

In line with Tameside's 'Smoke Free Gates' policy we thank all parents for not smoking anywhere on St Mary's premises – including in cars. E-cigarettes and vaping are included in our Smoke-free policy. Whilst this may be safer than smoking cigarettes, we want to strongly discourage learnt behaviour amongst our children. Many thanks for your cooperation.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY PLEASE

Please make sure that your child comes to school in full school uniform every day – including smart black school shoes – **NOT** trainers of any kind – even black ones. Long hair must be neatly tied back. No extreme hairstyles or hair motifs are allowed. No nail varnish, make-up or jo-jo bows are allowed.

FOREST SCHOOLS IN SPRING TERM 2019

Year 3 (mornings) and Year 2 (afternoons) will be having their Forest School sessions this term. Please prepare season-appropriate (old, not new) clothing for them. Sessions will start in our second week back, on Wednesday 16th January 2019. A separate letter will be sent out to Year 2 and Year 3 this week.

ANY SPARE BOARD GAMES?

If you have any spare board games for primary aged pupils with all the pieces and in full working order, then school would be delighted to receive them as donations. Please bring them to Mrs Flynn in the school office. Jigsaws and children's books in good condition would also be greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance.

DIARY DATES:

DATE:	EVENT:
Thursday 10 th January	Sacramental Programme Workshop 1 in school hall for parents and pupil at 6pm
Friday 11 th January	Staff Mass (The Epiphany) in school hall at 9am – all are welcome
Sunday 13 th January	Year 3 Sacramental Programme mass at St Mary's Church at 10.30am
Monday 14 th January	Sponsored Spell week in school
Tuesday 15 th January	Closing date for online applications for a Reception place for September 2019
Wednesday 16 th January	Year 6 Prayer Leaders' Commissioning Mass at St Mary's Church at 9am (separate letter to follow)
Wednesday 16 th January	Forest Schools for Y3 (am) and Y2 (pm)
Friday 18 th January	Year 6 (Prayer Leaders') Mass in school hall at 9am – all are welcome

RESPONDING TO THE NEWSLETTER

We are always happy to receive comments, observations or suggestions about the newsletter or any aspect of school life in general. These can be emailed to comments@st-marys-dukinfield.tameside.sch.uk