



St Mary's News 2021 December Issue 2

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"

Dear Parents,

Advent week 2 – Our Gateway Christmas donation fund, for needy local children, is open – with a massive £200+ to date.

Thank you- please keep it coming. There are so many needy families out there. Our Christmas tree looks lovely, decorated with baubles representing your kindness and shining beautifully, with your compassion and love for others in our world.

Our School Council braved the rain today, and have decorated a tree, for the Aldridge Tree Festival . Please see the attached Flyer with details of how you can visit it. Mrs Smith and Mrs Joyce were fiercely proud of our children and their commitment to helping others – thanks to them and to some helpful parents, also.

Christmas Nativities and the Covid picture. Our Covid numbers remain low now, in school, with 3 confirmed cases in the last 10 days. This matches the local updates, with Aldridge confirmed cases being lower than averages across England (up to 4th December 2021) At the moment, the KS1 nativity will be shared with one class of parents at a time, as detailed in letters received. **This will be at 2.30pm on the given days-** with parents (no more than 2) **needing to arrive with masks. These will need to be worn during the performance and we will need clear evidence if people are exempt from mask wearing. We will also be asking you to confirm a negative LFT on arrival** All seats will be socially distanced and the performance will be shortened. Please be aware, however, that it is subject to change dependent on numbers of Covid cases locally, and local advice. Thank you in anticipation for your full support. All other Christmas celebrations, including Early Years Advent activities and KS2 poems, songs etc, will be shared virtually, before the close of the term.

This week and Reminders:

EYFS- well done- Your Disney day was a great success. I thought you all looked fantastic!

No Christmas cards in school please- Sadly, we need to discourage unnecessary handling, swapping, licking, sticking and all that writing Christmas cards normally entails. Please keep your cards for another year.

Lateness – Please avoid it where possible. Children hate being late - it makes them feel anxious and it starts their day in a worried, nervous way. Where it is persistent, we will be in contact with parents, to address the concern

Christmas Drama workshop for Y1-Y6 - this was really a great success. Look at the tweets and chat to your children. Literacy in action- *A Christmas Carol* and *The Night before Christmas* were shared and enjoyed by all.

Swap old PE kits- recycle- Thank you very much to the PTA, for supporting this venture. As always, it was really well prepared and supported others.

Class workshops- These continue to be well received..

Collection at the end of the day- many thanks. This is considerably improved and children are much safer. Staff will continue to draw this important safety factor to you and your children's attention. Please work with them.

Mini Vinnie's Advent calendar- this is on class pages and is worth a look at, parents. It embeds the real message of Advent- preparing ourselves for Christmas- body and soul.

Upcoming events:

Nursery and Reception place offers are being finalised at the moment. Please ensure that you have sent your application form in requesting a Nursery place or a Reception place.

Thurs 16/21/21 **The School Council SMA Great British Green Bake Off Competition** in school. Have a read of the attached letter. We look forward to some KS2 pupils taking part.

Fri 17/12/21 School finishes at 1.30pm for all children on this day.

Wed 5/1/22 School re opens for all children to start the spring term.

Fri 7/1/22 Punctuation Show for Y5 and Y6 in school

Mon 10/1/22 Y6 - St Chad's visit. Please see attached letter.

And Finally...

we say Good luck and God bless to three greatly loved members of staff, this Christmas: Mrs Potter, in our school office, has secured a promotion, locally. She will be brilliant in her new role but leaves a huge hole here. Mrs Jephcott in Y2, is also leaving- another great loss to the staff- her fabulous smile will be missed by us all. Finally, Mrs Lewis, our school SENCo, is leaving. Her impact here at St Mary's has been massive. She will be greatly missed in many ways, too. Our love and thanks to them all for being such great team players and such happy, thoughtful, people.