



Thursday 25 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below this weeks' notices.

### **Faith in Action (Catholic Life)**

Last Sunday at St. Mary's church, staff, parents, and carers joined together, along with the church community, to welcome the children in Class 1 & 2 into our school community. It was a beautiful celebration, and it was lovely to see so many families there. The children took part in a beautiful liturgy led by Mrs Brentnall – they all enjoyed making their crowns to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. The children also received their presentation folder where they can collect all their certificates of achievements throughout their time at St Mary's. Fr Taz took the opportunity to remind the children the presentation files would be brought back to church at the end of Year 6 when preparing to transition onto secondary school. Fr Taz said he enjoyed welcoming the children and their families to church and said it was a memorable occasion for the whole parish community to enjoy and remember.

Yesterday, we celebrated 'Red Wednesday.' This was organised by Aid for the Church in Need to highlight religious persecution in the world, especially against Christians. Mrs Hazel hosted an extra Rosary Group where the children were given some red glasses and badges to celebrate this day. It was lovely to see so many children in the chapel taking part.

Many thanks to our families for your contributions we received last week as part of Anti-Bullying week. We raised £453.50 for Children in Need. Staff particularly enjoyed looking at all the 'odd socks' the children wore; they certainly brightened up the school.

### **Celebrating Achievements**

A special mention goes to Maisey A in Year 6. Maisey is part of a synchronised ice-skating team and was selected a little while ago to compete in skate London. It was her first competition and her team achieved Silver! The team have several competitions coming up including the British championships. We wish Maisey and the team luck in the upcoming competitions.

### **Admissions/ Personalised Visits**

Due to the success of our 'open week' earlier in the term, we are opening the doors once again for new parents with children starting school in September 2022. If you know of anyone who has children of this age who is currently choosing schools for their child, please signpost them to our school office to book a visit. Opportunities like this enable parents to meet staff, see the facilities and generally get a feel for the school. They will see the curriculum in action (if they visit in the school day) and see many reasons why they should choose St Mary's.

### **Christmas Panto**

It is Panto time once again...oh yes it is!

Just a gentle reminder that full payment of £11 must be paid by Friday 26 November. Please use ParentPay for all transactions. If you do not wish for your child to attend the pantomime trip, your child/ren will still be expected to attend school as normal. This year's panto is Sleeping Beauty and we are so very excited to attend this wonderful annual event once again.

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



### **Parking and Pedestrians**

Just a reminder to all our families who are not on the buses to park away from the school and walk their child/ren onto the site. Here are some suggestions of places to park nearby:

- St. Mary's Church car park, Darley Lane (6 minute walk to school)
- Parker's Piece Car park, City Road, DE1 1DF (4/5 minute walk to school)
- City Road (free parking for 30 minutes)

When bringing your child to school on foot, please enter through the gate on Fox Street and follow the one-way system across the playground to exit, turning right to head towards Fox Street again. Too many parents and carers are dropping their child/ren at the gate which is causing a congestion on the pavement just outside.

### **New Build**

Last week, the school were visited by representatives from the Department of Education who have been working closely with our Executive Head, Amanda Greaves on our new building. It was lovely to see the children so excited to see some of the proposed sketches of what it means to attend a school that has a focus on Biophilia (connection with nature). After the presentation, the children were invited to respond to the presentation through the embedded assessment in school of 2 stars (things they liked) and a wish (something they wanted to know more about or something they wanted the team to consider and/or re-consider). The 2 stars and a wish are being collated and will be sent on to the DfE team. Members of the Trust, Diocese and Local Governing Body were extremely impressed with the expertise, enthusiasm and vision outlined by the DfE team and are very much looking forward to working more closely with them as the plans are finalised and ready to share with the wider community.

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, the process is at the pre-application stage. Once the plans are ready for the application process, we will be a position to share the final designs and details surrounding the new development. This is a very exciting time for the school community not least because it dovetails perfectly into our mission and current priorities around teaching the children to live more simply, more sustainably whilst supporting others less fortunate than ourselves. Our children and families always show such generosity towards those less fortunate and so we would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again.

### **Nativity 2021**

Our established parents and carers will know that for many years we have prided ourselves on the open-door policy. We know that this open-door policy benefitted the children, parents and staff, not least because the children saw first-hand the strength of positive relationships and strong partnership between home and school. Whilst Class Dojo is a wonderful vehicle for keeping in touch, it does not come close to the face-to-face interactions we have become accustomed to. We think it is fair to acknowledge, this has been very difficult to maintain over recent years due to COVID and the temporary accommodation we have found ourselves in since the fire. However, we are desperate to reconvene events in school whereby parents and carers can be invited into school to see the wonderful work the children are producing and can showcase to their loved ones. The first of this kind (COVID permitted) will be for our Nativity performances. In order to make this as safe as possible, all 3 classes in KS1 (Classes 4, 5 and 6) will be performing the nativity play as a class this year for their parents. The performances will take place on Tues/Wed/Thurs 14/15/16 December in the afternoon - every family will be given a maximum of 2 tickets for their child's class performance.

For Nursery and Classes 1 and 2, we are hoping to re-create the infamous carols around the tree. This event will take place on the mornings of 14/15/16 December. Once again, more details will follow in a letter posted on Class Dojo.



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NOTTINGHAM

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### **Dates for your Diary**

Please see below a list of upcoming key dates for your diaries:

- Friday 3 December – INSET
- Wednesday 15 December – Christmas Dinner & Christmas jumper day
- Tuesday 21 December – Panto and last day of term
- Wednesday 22 December – School closed for additional bank holiday for the Queens Jubilee
- Thursday 23 December – INSET
- Monday 28 February – INSET
- Friday 1 July – INSET

Please feel free to contact us if you require anything in addition to the information above.  
Best wishes and God Bless

The Leadership Team



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