



St Mary's News 2021 December Issue 1

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Advent – Our Advent wreath is on display in the hall. Our Gateway Christmas donation fund, for needy local children, is open - £3 so far. Our tree has arrived - and we look forward to it being decorated next week, with baubles and lights- each representing our compassion for others in our world. Our School Council will be decorating a tree for the Aldridge Tree Festival, also. We look forward to seeing pictures of this soon. (Please see the attached Flyer).

After School Club changes to charges- Letters have been sent out last week, detailing the changes, effective from our return to school in January 2022. Please note the booking fees will be operative late December, in readiness for January 2022 Breakfast and After School Club.

Christmas Nativities and the Covid picture. We are watching government and local statistics carefully, currently. Our Covid numbers remain low at the moment, in school, with 5 confirmed cases in the last 10 days. This matches the local updates, with Aldridge confirmed cases dropping by 8% in the last 7 days. At the moment, we have said that the KS1 nativity will be shared with one class of parents at a time, as detailed in the attached letter. **This will be at 2.30pm on the given days-** with parents (no more than 2) needing to arrive with masks and only remove these when seated. It will be socially distanced and it 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 Disney Day in school tomorrow

It promises to be a happy day - with much learning happening alongside the theme.

Swap old PE kits- recycle- Thank you to the PTA for supporting this venture. There will be a **PE kits Nearly New Pop up store** on **Thursday, after school, this week-** at the top of the gates near the prayer garden - this afternoon at 3.25pm

Class workshops- These are being well received. We look forward to some feedback from you, once all have been released. Enjoy and be proud of your children.

Parents Consultations-Y4 Mrs Fielden is looking forward to sharing with parents on Friday across the day. Thanks for some positive feedback and great team work from staff and parents, across the day, last week.

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.

Collection at the end of the day Please be really vigilant each evening, when your children have been dismissed to you. In light of recent news, staff will not allow children back into school to collect items, and staff will be expecting children to be safe and remain with their parents at the end of each day, until they are safely off site, as part of our safeguarding remit. Many thanks for your full support.

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.](#)

Look out on the Class Pages for Mrs Hayes' Advent calendar.

Wed 8/21/21- Christmas Drama workshop for Y1-Y6

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 remember the Advent calendar- and the first candle being lit. It is a sign of *hope* in our world. We look forward to hearing examples of hope in our classrooms too.