



<http://www.stmarysprimary.durham.sch.uk/>

Dates for diary:



Friday 27th November- Autumn Progress Reports

November 29th- **Advent Begins**

Monday 30th November- Phonics Screening Year 2

Monday 30th November- Christmas Tree Arrives!!

Monday 30th November/ Tuesday 1st December Teams Parent Appointments. Not compulsory. See Weduc message.

Tuesday 14th/15th December- bring in your cards to post in the boxes in each bubble

Tuesday 15th December Christmas Party Day (in bubbles)

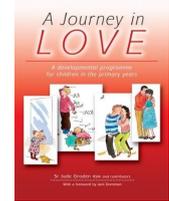
Wednesday 16th December- Christmas Jumper/ Christmas Lunch Day (in bubbles)

Thursday 17th December- Festive Film Night. Pick up 5pm (in bubbles)

Friday 18th December- Break Up for Christmas Holidays. Children will bring Christmas cards home to open.

Please also see holiday dates on our school website and the Weduc calendar.

Relationship and Sex Education



From September 2020, guidance from the Department for Education for Relationships and Sex Education (RSA) AND Health Education became mandatory for all schools, including Catholic Schools. The initiative has been welcomed by the Catholic Education Service (CES) who state clearly that, Catholic schools are also required to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. St Mary's have decided to use, as recommended by the Diocese a developmental programme for children in their primary Years- from EYFS to Year 6, called "A Journey in Love"

Further details and an opportunity for parents- particularly Year 6 to ask any questions they may have will be organised with both myself, Mrs Porter and Mrs Curran our Chair of Governors. This is likely to take place after Christmas but information will be shared prior to this via Weduc.

Thank you

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

- * Robins- Harry
- * Larks- Josh N
- * Swifts- Zach H
- * Owls- James and Ethan H



Festive Film Night Thursday 17th December

Children are invited to stay back after school on Thursday 17th to enjoy a festive film with their class mates. They will vote for the film they would like to watch and they will also enjoy a hot chocolate and home made cookie too. School would like to cover the cost for this. If your child will be joining their class for the film please just complete the short form on Weduc by Friday 11th December. Bubbles will have staggered times just as we usually would so pick up times will be

4.55pm - Robins

5pm - Larks

5.05pm- Swifts

5.10pm- Owls

As usual siblings can leave at the later pick up time. Please make sure the times are strictly adhered too as it will be dark and we will need to hand over safely, and as efficiently as we can. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

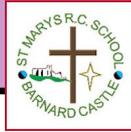


Happy Birthday to Evelyn (6) Edward (7) Jack D (7) and Sophia (7) who all celebrate birthdays next week.

I hope you all have a lovely day.



Advent Around School 2020



May we be in this world
A ray of light which
Shone forth from Bethlehem,
Bringing joy and peace
To the hearts of
All men and women.'



Pope Francis.

Advent begins this Sunday, 29th November.

The children will be using the Cafod calendar in school to begin each day in prayer during Advent. You may like to use it at home too.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-calendar-for-children>

Don't forget to see the weekly bulletins from Father Grieves on the parish links section of the website.



This year we are going to have a '**Community Christmas Tree**' in our Mary Garden at the front of school. Children and families will be invited to:

'decorate a bauble and place it on the tree for all of our community to admire and see!'

The children will decorate the baubles in school. If anyone wants to add any additional decorations just bring them to school by Wednesday 2nd December.



Some of you may still have your purple bows or your nativity badges from previous years. If so, feel free to wear them as of Monday.



Advent Foodbank

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink;

Matthew 25:35



A reminder from **Chloe** in Owls class:

Whilst it is lovely to **receive** an Advent calendar full of chocolate treats, the children would like to invite our families to take part in our 'Advent Foodbank' Using the class register the teacher will ask your child if they would like to bring one food item in that they will then **give** to the foodbank/Hub in Barnard Castle. You do not have to take part and don't worry we have items in school so that your child can still 'give' when it is their day on the register. This will part of their morning prayer during the Advent season.

Christmas is a time for giving, and thinking of others and after the year we have all experienced I think it would be lovely if we could help those who really do need us this Christmas. Just a single tin, or packet will make all of the difference to some of the families right here in our local community. How wonderful to be able to donate 4 food hampers from each of the bubbles in school, as well as an additional hamper set up from Mrs Lewandowski, on behalf of the staff here at St Mary's. School will deliver the hampers on behalf of our families to the Hub.

'It's good to give!'

Christmas Nativity and Celebrations!

Whilst we aren't able to have our usual Nativity here in school we are planning on each class bubble to perform and record something each and then put it on the Website for our families to enjoy watching together in the comfort of your own home.

An updated consent form will be added to Weduc so that we have the permissions in place and as always we respect any parental decision to request not to have their child recorded for the website.

Thank you.

