



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

## Dates for diary:



**Sunday 6th December 1-3pm- Fundraiser at Baliol St, Barnard Castle. See 2nd page of newsletter for further details. Please support this if you can.**

**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)

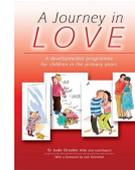
**Friday 18th December-** Break Up for Christmas Holidays. Children will bring Christmas cards home to open.

**Monday January 4th**—Back to school

**Wednesday 27th January-** individual school photographs. Further info to follow.

*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- Rowan
- \* Larks- Rosie
- \* Swifts- Alice
- \* Owls- Imogen



## 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.

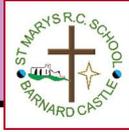
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy Birthday to Reece who will celebrate his 6th birthday this week. Have a lovey day Reece!



## 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.

This year we are going to have a '**Community Christmas Tree**' 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!'*

Any families who would like to get busy this weekend making decorations for the school community Christmas tree we would really appreciate it! Our 'theme' is natural ... twigs, pine cones, hessian, dried fruits, conkers, seeds- anything you can think of!! Let's get creative!!  
Thank you!



### 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



Thank you to everyone who has already brought items in for our Advent Foodbank this year, we already have quite a collection... wonderful, thank you so much everybody.



You may know that in the last year our family have been fundraising for St Teresa's Hospice where Honia receives complementary treatment to help her cope with the side effects of anti-cancer medication. We have been doing this by taking part in a lot of different running challenges. You can see our story here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Honorata-Devlin>

In addition, Kornel has been inspired by his Advent homework set by Mrs Porter and decided that he would like to organise a fundraising afternoon with his Polish grandmother.

They have decided to bake a selection of cakes including ginger bread and offer them in exchange for some donations. His grandma has been also very busy crocheting angels and Christmas trees that Kornel will decorate.

We thought, that it would be lovely to tie this in with a Virtual Santa Run for St Teresa's Hospice this Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> December.  
[https://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/darlington-santa-run/?fbclid=IwAR2gGfNn5C7fQqE-uFWkAohq7OZcaPx8on\\_GTrj9CID32WO1crBnuj2wU](https://www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/darlington-santa-run/?fbclid=IwAR2gGfNn5C7fQqE-uFWkAohq7OZcaPx8on_GTrj9CID32WO1crBnuj2wU)

We took part in this event last year just a week after Honia finished her chemotherapy treatment and would like to continue with this tradition.

We will start running at 11am and will put a table outside of our house with the cakes and the crochet creations between 1-3pm.

We would like to invite everyone to come and visit us in Baliol St, Barnard Castle. There will be a hand gel on the table and all cakes will be individually wrapped. We will be wearing masks and would ask everyone to do the same and also not to gather outside of their bubbles. We would also encourage everyone to do the donations on line rather than handing in cash, however we will provide a tin.

We would be most grateful for helping us to spread the word.

Best regards

Honia and Steven Devlin

### 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.

