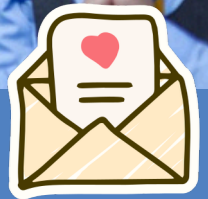




## Headteacher Message



Dear Parents/ Carers

We do hope you enjoyed the half term holiday.

The Advent 2 term is an exciting term, with so many festivals of light from different cultures, that we celebrate with the children. We started this half term with our fantastic All Hallows disco on Tuesday the 29th of October, which was greatly enjoyed by the children. Thank you to the FOSM and all families/ staff who helped. We wish all our Hindu and Sikh families a Happy Diwali- the children have been so interested in learning about these religious events. In October the children did so well with the Rosary challenge- saying a decade every day for Peace in the world.

We now begin to focus on remembrance in November, thinking about loved family and friends who have died. Thank you for sending names of family and friends whom you would like us to pray for in our Liturgies. On the 11th of November at 11a.m we have our Remembrance Liturgy- all are welcome. The Year 6 children have been selling poppies and other items each day.

It has also been wonderful to welcome our EYFS class to School Liturgies and they join us for mass for the very first time for the Solemnity of All Saints at 9.15a.m at St Mary's Church.

We all enjoy having families attend events and we look forward to inviting families to see learning in school this Advent 2 term and for lots of lovely events, such as the Nativities, the Junior carol concert and Menphys Concert at De montfort Hall.

God Bless, Miss Jordan



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## Dates for your diary



All Saint's Mass at St Mary's Church 9.15a.m: Friday 1st November

4th November: 7p.m First Holy Communion meeting for parents ( please ensure that if you want your child to receive this sacrament that the form is handed to Fr Paul/ Fr David at St Mary's Church by the 3rd of November.)

11th November: 11a.m Remembrance Liturgy led by Y3

Book Fayre in school: from the 12th November

Flu immunisations in school: 13th November ( Please ensure you have booked online by the 12th of November.)

13th November Open Morning: Please do come and visit to see the school in the morning and see the wonderful lessons- not just for prospective EYFS parents.

**Training/ Inset Day: Friday 29th November- children not in school**

Film night: Friday 22nd November

Christmas Fayre : 3rd December- after school

Pantomime: 10th December: children attending Panto at the Town Hall 1.45p.m ( later pick up at school.)

EYFS Nativity: 11th December 2pm

Y1/ Y2 Nativity: 12th December 2pm

Junior Carol Service in Church: 17th December at 6pm

Own Clothes Day: Friday 20th December 24 ( last day of the Advent 2 term.)

Christmas Holidays: 23rd December – 3rd January 2025

The children return for the Lent Term on the 6th of January 2025.



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## Curriculum At St Mary's

There has been lots of exciting learning in October.

The children are continuing to enjoy and remember more through a blocked curriculum in the afternoon, where they have the same subject such as Geography each afternoon for one or two weeks. The school is ideally located to use the local resources, such as Queen's Park to help enrich the children's learning.

The EYFS Class St Annes learnt so much about Loughborough, in their 'Our Town' topic. They very sensibly walked to Queen's Park. Year Two also learnt also about Loughborough, developing their mapping skills on a small and large scale, also using art to develop their locational knowledge. Year One's learning of continents was very impressive in their Geography lessons, resulting in some very realistic looking penguins made from clay in Art.



For the first two weeks after half term, the children focus on Science: seasonal changes, eating and health, sound, fossils, materials and classification are some of the Science topics.

### READING

Reading is a central focus at St Mary's- not just the skill of reading, but also reading for pleasure and encouraging children to read a variety of types of writing and different authors. Although the children read each day at school, the children who make the greatest progress in their reading also read to parents at least 2 times a week. So please make time to listen to your child read!

### MATHEMATICS

The children focus on number and place value in their Mathematics lessons in the Advent 1 and 2 terms. These are the building blocks for the other units in the latter terms. Understanding the representation and value of numbers is important, including the place holders of 0. Children learn more formal methods for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing as they progress through the school. Year 1 start counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s and in Year Two, children are expected to know these times tables. Year 3, also need to know x3 x4 and by the end of Y4 children are expected to know up to their x12. Practise on times tables rock stars is a good way to memorise the x tables.

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## School uniform and PE kit

Winter Uniform: After October half term to the Easter holidays:

Blue shirt (not polo shirt) and tie – no summer dresses. Not white shirts.

Trainers only to be worn for PE. Black school shoes to be worn.

- Black or charcoal grey trousers, skirts, pinafores.
- PE Kits: white or blue shirts (not football shirts or coloured shirts)
- Black or navy blue shorts, black or blue tracksuits only. Children wear PE kits on PE days.

Jewellery and hair:

Ear studs and analogue watches only (no hooped earrings). Children will be asked to remove incorrect jewellery and this will be put in an envelope and given to parents. If your child wears any other jewellery for religious reasons- please inform the Headteacher by letter. Please ensure that hair longer than the shoulder is put up in a ponytail or plait and that tram lines are not put into hair.





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## Staff at St Mary's

We very sadly said goodbye to Mrs Guyatt, who was a teaching assistant at St Mary's for 29 years at the end of the half term. We wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Adamek: teaching assistant in Year Two has fractured her arm and won't be back until after Christmas- we pray for her quick recovery and for Mr Mount, the year 3 teacher is ill at the moment. We are very glad to have Mrs Wilson teaching assistant return, who is covering classes in the afternoon, with the PE coaches and Mrs Leaney the music teacher- when the teachers have their planning and preparation time.

Our fantastic before school club started on the 28th of October. Welcome to Dan, the before school club leader from JML sports who runs it for the school from 8a.m in the morning. The children are enjoying the activities. We do have some free funded places for pupils who are in receipt of pupil premium funding- so please do make use of these places. We are aiming to expand this provision after the Christmas holidays to include breakfast. Please do make use of this provision, which can be booked on Arbor, as it would be a pity to close it after a year, due to low uptake.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL/ SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY TEAM/ SCHOOL ECO TEAM

The children are nominated by their peers for these roles and they have brilliant ideas. They meet with the school leaders/ Eco leaders every fortnight to share ideas and to action it. Please do come along to the Eco Liturgy on the 26th of November at 9a.m. The School council suggested some changes to the extra-curricular clubs after school- so art club , cooking, hockey and handball clubs were brought in this term. They also suggested more roles for children in school, such as classroom and cloakroom monitors and this has been actioned.

Lorley the Academy chaplain spends a day at St Mary's every fortnight. She has retreat sessions with a class, meets the chaplaincy team to action their ideas and develop the prayer life in school and also works with pupils with SEND needs to help them to access prayer and Liturgy. The Chaplaincy team developed the prayer area in the Library beautifully. With the eco- team, they are looking at Blessed Carlo Acutis this term and his focus on homelessness, raising money for the Charity Crisis.