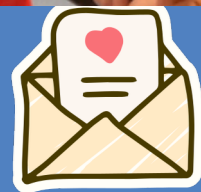


Headteacher Message



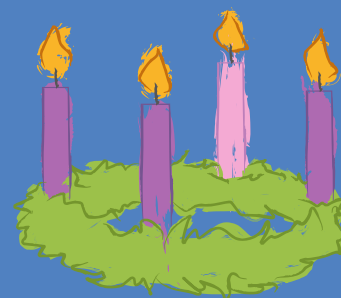
Dear Parents/ Carers

As we approach Advent, the children are so excited to prepare for Jesus' birthday. They have all been learning about the Advent wreath in their Advent RE lessons and how we can help others this Season. The young leaders in the Chaplaincy and Eco team have been thinking about homelessness this Advent and have made a stable out of cardboard, focusing on blessed Carlo Acutis- one of the house saints- who tried to help the homeless. They are raising money for Crisis.

Already the children have sung at the St Mary's parish Christmas Fayre and read with Delisle pupils at the Christ the King Masses at St Mary's church. We have welcomed lots of visitors on our open mornings and many other families for the tours of the school.

The children have also made the most of their brilliant learning opportunities in November - particularly in their blocked curriculum subjects of Science, History, music and art.

God Bless, Miss Jordan



Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11
5AX Phone: 01509 212 621 Email: office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk
Website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk



Dates for your diary



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

Monday 2nd December Advent Wreath Blessing Liturgy led by the Chaplaincy Team- All welcome in the school hall.

3rd December: After school FOSM meeting- all welcome

Christmas Fayre : 5th December- after school

6th December: Menphys Catholic School's Concert- Demontfort Hall

9th December: Feast of the Immaculate Conception- children at 9.15a.m mass at St Mary's Church

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

Y1/ Y2 Nativity: 12th December 2pm

EYFS Nativity: 17th December 2pm

Friday 13th December: Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children

Junior Carol Service in St Mary's Church: 17th December at 6pm

18th December: Christmas Meal day- children can bring crackers

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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Before School and Extra Curricular clubs at St Mary's

Before School Club

The before school club started at St Mary's on the 28th of October and the number of children attending is steadily rising. One child stated : " I love the art. The hockey and dodge ball is fun too."

The club is run by JML sport's leaders Dan and John. The children enjoy being with them and having a good start to the day.

There are some funded places- so please let Miss Jordan if you would like a place. As the club has started so well, we will be building on this in the next 2 terms to see if we can also offer breakfast. The club starts from 8a.m.

Extra- Curricular Clubs

There have been a range of after school clubs this term, some 2 or 3 an afternoon. Art, cooking, football and multi-sports have been very popular, but hockey and hand ball have also been enjoyed by the pupils. Our thanks to a parent who led the cooking club for the school- the children have learnt such great skills in this. It has also been great to see the children's confidence rising in the art club through messy activities. Parental feedback is always important in helping us design our offer- so parents please let us know what you think your child would enjoy after school.

Arbor

All extra-curricular clubs, the before school club and wrap around club can be booked on Arbor. Please let Mrs Fox (office manager) know if you cannot get onto Arbor.



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School uniform and PE kit

Please ensure that children are wearing their tie with their shirt and jumper, except for on PE days. This is not an optional extra and must be worn with the rest of their uniform. An important part of your child's school journey is the preparation we do for Secondary school. Secondary schools are much stricter with uniform, so it is important that your child develops a good routine and habits now with wearing the correct uniform.

SCHOOL RULES AND THE ST MARY'S BEHAVIOUR MANTRAS

- The 6 St Mary's rules are:
 - 1) Follow instructions from all adults
 - 2) Be Kind
 - 3) Use good manners
 - 4) Look after our school and each other
 - 5) Walk calmly and quietly around school
 - 6) Wear our uniform with pride

In whole school Liturgies and Assemblies- you would have heard us use the phrases below:
SLANT: S- sitting up well, Listen, A-answer questions, n-nod to check your understanding, and T-track the speaker.

STEPS: Sir/ Mr/ Miss/ Mrs for adults with their names when requesting staff attention

T- thank you

E- Excuse me

P- please

SHAPE- this is about shaping our voices when we speak- we encourage the children to speak in sentences and to speak out loud when presenting in the hall.

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Staffing news at St Mary's

Mr Mount is not well, but is hoping to return after the Christmas holidays. Mrs Springthorpe will continue to teach Year 3 in Mr Mount's absence. Mrs Adamek- teaching assistant continues to recover well and is hoping to be back for the Lent 1 term.

Miss Hargrove has been called up for jury service for 10 days from the 2nd of December. If she needs to attend, Mrs Rutledge and Miss Jordan will cover the class in that time.

Mrs Shah was appointed in the teaching assistant role for Mrs Guyatt. She is working in Year 6. Our congratulations to Miss Clarke (teaching assistant) who has had a beautiful baby girl. Miss Clarke is on maternity leave until November next year and we welcome Mrs Fanta in her role . Welcome to all the new staff.

SCHOOL REVIEW DAY

Each year all the schools in the St Thomas Aquinas Academy have a review day to look at strengths in the school and areas for development. It was lovely to read about so many strengths and areas to develop, which the school was already working on. Below are just a few of each.

Strengths:

There are strong levels of care for the most vulnerable with a particular focus on SEND learners and pupil premium. This extends beyond the school day and leaders have access to a wide range of external agencies in order to support families.

Early years provision is a strength of the school. Staff maintain high expectations and the creative provision is fully inclusive.

Personal development is a strength of the school and the extra- curricular offer is rich and varied.

Areas to develop

Look at the impact of the french teaching- are children remembering key concepts and are prepared for KS3. Pupils to revisit information between the blocked subjects.

Have the same provision for morning playtime as lunchtime on the year 1 and 2 playground.