



# ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Great Lime Road  
Forest Hall  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE12 7AB  
T: 0191 8142006  
E: [office@stmarysfh.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysfh.org.uk)  
[www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Families,

### Celebration of the Word

Next week the theme of our Celebration of the Word is 'Open Hearts'. As we continue with our Advent preparations, we will be reflecting on the theme of peace. We will be thinking about how we can be instruments of peace in our daily actions and being good examples to others.



### Christmas Performances

Next week we have the Reception Class and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances in the school hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Our Key Stage 2 Carol Service will take place in St Mary of the Rosary Catholic Church in Forest Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm. Afterwards the children will return to school with school staff to be collected from their usual collection points. For all the performances we are inviting parents/carers to bring and donate a small selection box and we will then donate the collection to St Vincent's Centre, Newcastle. <https://svp.org.uk/st-vincents-newcastle>

### Christmas Lunch Day

All pupils are welcome to have a Christmas dinner on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The menu for the day is:

- Traditional roast turkey served with stuffing, cocktail sausage, crispy roast potatoes, carrots, peas, sprouts & gravy or
- Roasted vegetable parcel served with crispy roast potatoes, carrots, peas, sprouts & gravy
- Dessert: Christmas Cupcake or Christmas Shortbread.

Please note jacket potatoes or sandwiches will not be available on this day.

### Christmas Parties

Christmas parties for all classes will take place in the final week of term. On their party day, the children can come to school dressed in their party clothes and they will need to bring in a small plate of their own party food – wrapped up with their name on the plate.

### Friends of St Mary PTFA Christmas Fair

The PTFA Christmas Fair will be taking place next week on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. Please do come along to enjoy and support the many stalls, games and refreshments on offer.

### PTFA News:

#### Christmas Hamper Raffle

*Tickets on sale via ParentMail from Monday. £2.00 each for a chance to win food / drinks / chocolate / games / pamper hampers to either enjoy or share!*

*Raffle closes on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Draw will take place in school during last week of term.*

#### Christmas Fair - Helpers Desperately Needed!

*Can you help sort donations for our tombola (in school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec from 9am) / set up a stall / look after a stall / help tidy up afterwards?...*

*The fair takes place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 3:30pm - 5pm and we're seeking people who can spare a hour or two to get involved and help spread the Christmas magic!*

*Please email [ptfa.stmarysforesthall@gmail.com](mailto:ptfa.stmarysforesthall@gmail.com) or catch us in the yard.*





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### Asda Cashpot for Schools

Thank you to everyone who supported the supermarket's fundraising campaign. £453.01 was raised for St Mary's Primary which will be spent on projects identified by the school in the new year.

### Christmas Shopping Online.

Please consider signing up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and selecting Friends of St Mary's PTFA - Newcastle, as your chosen beneficiary.

Every time you shop, top brands make a donation to the PTFA - there are over 7,000 websites involved including Amazon, Argos, Etsy, Tesco's, M&S, Just Eat and the donation doesn't cost you a penny.

### Weekly Attendance

The overall attendance for the whole school this week is 95.9%.

Well done to Year 4 who have won the Attendance Award for this week with 100% attendance.

Reception	96%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	90.6%

Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	97.1%
Year 6	98%

### **Reminders:**

#### School Admissions – Reception class (September 2025)

Applications for primary (Reception) places for September 2025 is now open and can be accessed at <https://my.northynteside.gov.uk/category/129/school-admissions>

- Reception class admissions must be completed and submitted by **13th January 2025**.

Please note applications for places at Catholic schools do require supporting evidence of baptismal certificates if applying under a catholic category. If you require a copy of your baptismal certificate please contact the church where your child was baptised as early as possible. For GDPR reasons, this must be a written request not an email/telephone call.

### Attendance & Punctuality

- The school day starts at 8.55am with the school doors opening at 8.45am.
- Registers are taken from 8.55am and will remain open for 30 minutes.
- Any pupils arriving after 9am will be marked as 'late before register closes'.
- Any pupil arriving after the register closes will be marked as an unauthorised absence.
- Please note that holidays should not be taken in term time and will not be authorised; if a holiday is taken and meets the new threshold of 10 sessions\* within a period of 10 weeks, we may refer the matter to the Local Authority who may issue a penalty notice. **The penalty notice has increased to £80 per parent, per child.**

(\*1 session = a morning/afternoon session)

### Statutory Assessment Dates

Each year statutory assessments are carried out for certain year groups in the summer term. This year's dates are as follows:

- Year 1 Phonics Screening check – Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Year 4 Multiplication check – Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025





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- Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Clubs

Next week is the last week of clubs for this term.

Day	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
<b>Monday</b>		Recorders	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 1 & Year 2 Multiskills (8.00 – 8.45am)		KS2 Dance (3.30-4.30pm) Y5 & Y6 Art Club (3.30 -4.15pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 2 & Year 4 Multiskills (8.00 – 8.45am)	Recorders	KS1 Art (3.30 -4.15pm) Y2 Rugby Minis (3.30-4.30pm) Y6 SATs Club
<b>Thursday</b>			Y1 Yoga (3.30- 4.30pm) KS2 Choir (3.30 -4.30pm)

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & Key Stage 1 Nativity 2.00pm (School Hall)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & Key Stage 1 Nativity 9.30am (School Hall)
	Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service 2.00pm (Church)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 'That History Bloke' class workshops
	PTFA Christmas Fair 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas Holidays
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	<b>Staff Training Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Pupils return to school</b>

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Foster  
Head Teacher

