

NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

We have had a busy two weeks in school. Last week, on our first day back after the half term break, the whole school walked to St. Mary's Church and took part in the All Saints Mass. The children were brilliantly behaved and showed respect – they were a credit to you all. The Mass began with each year group having a representative to bring an image of the new class saint the children had picked. Each class will be learning a great deal about the Saint their class have picked:

- EYFS – St. Therese of Lisieux.
- Y1 – St. Joseph.
- Y2 – St. Anthony.
- Y3 – St. Paul.
- Y4 – St. Anne.
- Y5 – St. Francis.
- Y6 – St. Christopher.

Thank-you to everyone for your generous donations to the “Poppy Appeal”, most of the items given to us have been sold. As you know your donations will be used to help so many people that need support.

This week has been parents/carers evening, thank-you to all the families who have joined their child's class teacher on TEAMS and had a good conversation about their progress so far this term. A number of parents asked about how they can support their child at home. One of the main ways is either reading to or listening to your child read. Sharing books will help your children learn a vast amount of vocabulary. Research shows that the more vocabulary (words) children know, the better they will do at school. Remember reading is fun; part of my favourite poem about books – “A book can block out the world, if you dive deep enough and listen to it's thoughts.”

A Prayer

All-generous God, grant me the grace to give without counting the cost and to love with all my being.

Keep me attentive to the needs of others, knowing that you can multiply whatever little I can put into the treasury.

Amen

Remember at all times at St. Mary's everyone wants all the children to continue to “Believe, Succeed and Soar”

As ever you all remain in my thoughts and prayers,

Take care

Mrs R Wheatley

CALENDAR EVENTS

Friday 19th November-
Wear Pyjamas in exchange
for donations.

Friday 10th December-
Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 14th December-
EYFS Nativity
KS1 Carols Around the Tree

Wednesday 15th December-
Christmas Lunch
KS1 Panto Visit
KS2 Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 16th December-
KS2 Panto Visit

Friday 17th December-
Last Day of Advent Term

Tuesday 4th January-
First day of Lent Term



Staff Member Retirement

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Mrs Leonard has retired after 35 years of working the school. Many of you will know her from when she looked after you as a child at this school and have great memories. There is a collection in the office if you would like to contribute to a retirement gift.

Newsletter Feedback

We have recently changed the format of the newsletter. If you could email the school office, your feedback on this would be very helpful: info@st-marys-grantham.lincs.sch.uk

Winter Uniform

As of 1st November all children should be coming to school in their winter uniform, no shorts or summer dresses.

Advent 2: Encounter with us...

It is Bishop Patrick's vision that every church, chaplaincy, school and home in our Diocese will be a place where people can encounter Jesus. We are being called to encounter and re-encounter Jesus and his love for us. We are called to discover and rediscover Jesus and the call to follow him. Our school exists so we can present the Good News to you our families in engaging and transforming ways. How will you Encounter Christ this term? Our theme for this term is Encounter: The definition of an Encounter is 'An unexpected meeting'. We can encounter Christ in lots of different places but maybe this week we can think about finding Christ in those places we don't expect to. Maybe we should also think about how we can take Christ to unexpected places too. We can be the face of Christ to other people and by trying to live our lives like Him we can help other people meet Him, even if they don't expect it! Every Catholic School has a Mission Statement - words, sentences or phrases that remind us what our calling is as followers of Christ. Our Mission Statement: Christ is at the centre of St. Mary's as we strive to nurture and care for all our community members by encouraging them to Believe, Succeed and Soar within God's love, to achieve the very best that they can, in all areas.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

On our school website, under the news and events tab there is a school calendar. You are able to link your phone calendar to this. This way you will stay up to date with any notifications on the school website.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Reception Class: 93.9%

Year 1: 97.89%

Year 2: 98.62%

Year 3: 98%

Year 4: 96.67%

Year 5: 96.79%

Year 6: 96%

Parent-Teacher evening:

We are aware that some parents missed their parents evening this week. Please keep checking your child's planner, as the teacher will write it in another appointment time.

Flu Vaccinations

If your child missed their flu vaccine please make sure you complete the form on parentmail and they will get the opportunity to have it later in the month.



All the children every day are praying the Synod prayer, this could be as a class or within a Collective Worship as a whole school. Please remember to share this prayer within your families, the Pope is encouraging everyone across the whole world to do so.

Each family in school was given two prayercards for themselves and one other person whom they know, but who has perhaps stopped coming to Mass, or who might appreciate some encouragement to recognise that he or she is a beloved member of God's family. You might put the prayer on their fridge door in the kitchen, and encourage family members to pray the prayer quietly each day. The prayercard also has a QR code, and a web address, where thoughts and answers about the Synodal questions can be left. The prayer which the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has chosen to be our Synodal Prayer is that used at the opening of each session of the Second Vatican Council sixty years ago. Just as the Holy Spirit was heard then, so let us pray that we might listen to the Spirit now, in our own time and place. So, please, pray this prayer daily, at home in the family, and in our praying communities around the diocese. In whatever ways we can, let us join with the Pope and people around the world, in asking the Spirit for His guidance once again.



National School Breakfast Programme:

As you are aware the children have the option of a toasted plain bagel with a spread on when they arrive to school. Research shows that children who have eaten breakfast learn better and feel happier because they have a full stomach. Therefore, this will aid the wellbeing of the children as well as their brilliant learning powers! Children have made lots of comments about how lovely the bagels are. We have also found arrival times of pupils has improved.