

Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2019

Ysgol Santes Fair - St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Dear Parent,

We begin the **first week** of the **Advent** season next week with an active collective worship on the theme of **Reconciliation** followed by the **reception of the Sacrament** for our children who are able to receive it. I'm very grateful to Fr. Tim and the Deanery team of Priests who are coming to school to facilitate this service. It's so important that our children understand and participate in the full liturgical life of the church. On that theme, many thanks to the many parents who supported our School Mass last Sunday for the Feast of Christ the King.

It was a very joyful celebration and we very much look forward to our first School Mass of 2020. Details will follow soon.

The **First Sunday of Advent** marks the beginning of the **Year of the Word** as declared by the Bishops in England and Wales. During the year therefore there will be a particular emphasis on the **Gospel of Christ** as being the way forward for all of us in our lives. Your ongoing support of the practice of the Faith at home and at Mass is much appreciated.

Last Saturday the Entrepreneurship Group led by Mrs Parry with the support of many staff members presented a stall at **Bridgend Market**. It was full of wonderful items that the children had made themselves. Everybody really enjoyed the event and it was enhanced by the singing of Christmas songs and hymns by our children. The staff at the market commented on how much our children enhanced the day for them. Many thanks to all staff involved and to those at the market who helped us to facilitate the event. To date **sales from the stall** amount to **approximately £720** which is a remarkable effort. Well done to everyone.

The pattern of our **Nativities** for this year is once again shown below. Tickets are available priced at **£2.50 each**. Please clearly mark on an envelope which performances you want the tickets for and we will get them to you.

11th December, Year 1/2 Nativity at 10am and Nursery/Reception Nativity at 1.30pm

12th December, Nursery/Reception Nativity at 10am and Year 1/2 Nativity at 1.30pm

17th December, Year 3/4 Nativity at 10am and Year 5/6 Nativity at 1.30pm

18th December, Year 5/6 Nativity at 10am and Year 3/4 Nativity at 1.30pm

With this newsletter is information about our Advent charitable effort this year, Credit Union savings withdrawal form and information from Cavms, please see attached.

Yesterday a group of children from **Year 6** represented the school in the Bridgend area **Spelling Bee** competition which was held at St. Clare's school. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and they have represented the school with great credit, coming away as competition winners —Ardderchog Year 6! Many thanks to Mrs. Azzopardi for preparing them and for taking them along.

The **Local Authority** are currently **consulting on some changes to the arrangements for school transport**. Some of the proposals have the potential to affect Catholic schools significantly. The most significant being the proposed **removal of free transport for children of nursery age**. In addition the authority proposes to take away the protection that younger siblings have if they join the school and their brother or sister is already receiving free transport. The school has of course already responded to the consultation, giving our views to the authority very clearly but we would welcome as many responses to this consultation as possible stating that we believe that the removal of free transport for nursery age children is very much to the detriment of our Catholic families locally and to other families who wish for their child to enjoy the benefits of a Catholic education.

The link for the consultation which takes between 5-10 minutes to complete is provided here: www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/current-consultations/learner-travel-review-consultation The more people who can make the authority aware of how unsatisfactory this proposal is the more chance we have of having it cancelled or significantly amended. Many thanks in advance for your support.

A reminder that we will be **breaking up** at the end of term on **Friday 20th December** and be **returning to school** on **Monday 6th January 2020**. Please help us to maintain high attendance right up until the end of term. Our children will be continuing their formal learning right until the 20th December. Thank you very much for your support in this very important area. Please note that our first day back after the holiday is not an INSET day and that our **first INSET day of 2020** will be **Friday 14th February** which will lead into the Half Term break.

Friends of St. Mary's

Tickets are still available for our trip to the **Christmas Market** at Bath on **Saturday 30th November**, leaving McArthur Glen at 8am and leaving Bath around 5pm. Please e-mail head.stmarys@bridgend.gov.uk if you would like to join the trip tomorrow.

The Friends are also organising an **End of term Christmas Disco** for our children on **Thursday 19th December**. It will run from **6-7.30pm** and tickets for it will go on sale in a short while.

The **Friends of St. Mary's** are also organising a **Coffee Morning** here at **9am on Thursday 5th December**—Everyone is welcome!

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Headteacher: Mr Lyndon Watkins, BA (Hons), MA (Ed), PGCE, NPQH Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Azzopardi, BA (Hons), MA (Ed) (Hons)

