

Newsletter December 2017

Believe and Achieve

To provide a fun, stimulating and excellent education which enables each child to achieve their full potential, academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially in a safe, Christian environment.

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

The winning numbers on the 150 club are 69, 98, 1, 52, 34 and 129. The next draw will be on Tuesday 19th December when we also have the bonus draw of £500. Tickets are also on sale for the Christmas Hampers, please return your requests to the School Office or purchase at the School Carol Service. The winner will be drawn at the end of the Carol Service.

Thank you to everyone who supported St. Mary's Christmas Market. The school band opened the markets and performed superbly. With lots of stalls there was a good selection of products. Thank you to the traders and the Support Group members for making this an enjoyable and profitable event.

The next Support Group meeting is on 10th January at 7:00pm at the North Star. We have lots more exciting events planned, if you have any fund raising ideas please come along and join the group. All new members welcome.

STAFFING:

As we return in January we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Barlow following her maternity leave. A huge thank you to Miss Fletcher who has covered this absence.

LINKS WITH ST. MARY'S CHURCH:

At the end of last term Father Alan joined school for the Year 6 and Reception Buddy class assembly and presented our new Reception children with a prayer book. It was lovely to see the pupils working together and the relationships developing between both classes. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved in presenting a wonderful assembly.

ASSEMBLIES:

Well done to Year 4 who led an outstanding assembly all about Sound. The assembly was humorous and informative and extremely well performed by our pupils. Well done Year 4!

Please note there will be no Friday assembly on the 1st or 15th December.

Friday assembly will take place on Friday 8th Dec at 2:50am as usual AND the Christmas Service on TUESDAY 19th DEC at 9:30am in St Mary's Church. All parents are welcome to join us for the church service which Year 5 will lead. The school band, woodwind groups and choir will also be performing.

Future Class Assemblies Are:

19th January Year 3 Class Assembly

9th February Year 1 Class Assembly

SNOW POLICY:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the snow policy and arrangements for bad weather.

Snow Warnings: what school does

- * *The school's priority is our young people's safety*
- * *All decisions are taken around this central concern.*
- * *We monitor the weather forecast closely and take advice from many agencies.*

During the winter, when bad weather can be expected, our first priority is to ensure that the school site is safe and the surrounding roads are passable.

*The paths are cleared and gritted, and **for safety reasons we do not allow any form of snowballing.***

If conditions deteriorate during the school day, or bad weather is forecast when pupils would be going home, I may inform parents via the school website, twitter account or parentmail as noted below, that they can collect their child from school early. Extra curricular activities may also be cancelled when the weather is poor.

The actual timing depends on weather reports. Exceptionally, I may have to decide in advance to close the school and would always try to use the best possible advice available.

Closing the school due to adverse weather is always a difficult decision to make and is only made in extreme circumstances based on the following:

- *There are insufficient staff in school because of unexpected snow/weather conditions.*
- *The weather makes it too dangerous for staff and children to travel to school.*
- *The school grounds are too dangerous.*
- *The heating/hot water is not working.*
- *School dinners are not available due to any of the above reasons.*

A decisions to close the school is made as soon as I am in receipt of all necessary information which then allows/enables me to make an informed and considered decision.

Communication with parents

I am sure that you will appreciate that I cannot contact all parents individually.

Notices of early closure are posted immediately on the school website

(www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk) and sent as a message on twitter. We also send a message out on Parentmail, although in high levels of demand this can often be slow. We also inform the Local Authority who update their website and we also inform local media including local radio stations <http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/SchoolClosures/Schools.aspx>)

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE PLEASE!

*Please do not rely on waiting for a parentmail message as the only means of communication, please check all other sources including the school website. You can also check by telephoning school but this will only be available **AFTER 8am** when a member of staff is able to answer calls.*

Please do not reply to any text message as this congests the school phone lines.

I hope we will have a pleasant, mild winter, but as always we should be prepared and we are.

ATTENDANCE:

We are delighted to announce that 161 children were awarded attendance badges for their excellent attendance during the first Autumn half term. 123 children have achieved 100% attendance and 38 children have nearly 100% attendance. Year 2 had the best class attendance with 26 children being awarded badges. Congratulations to all 161 children and their parents for ensuring such super attendance. We want to continue encouraging our children to recognise the importance of their learning opportunities and will reward good attendance again next half term as every lesson counts.

PLACES IN RECEPTION 2018:

If your child is due to start school in September 2018, please make sure you have completed your application on line before 5pm on the 15th January 2018. Our Supplementary Information forms, regarding church attendance, must be returned direct to school. **Any parent wishing to apply for a Reception place at St. Mary's CE Primary School MUST complete a supplementary form.** Please contact the school office for further information.

PLEASE NOTE : Once you have submitted an application to the Local Authority, you should be sent confirmation that it has been received, if you do not receive acknowledgement, you **MUST** contact Oldham Council on 0161 770 4213. Applications received after the deadline will only be considered once all on-time applications have been processed.

If any parents need help with completing the application, there are free information and advice sessions taking place every Thursday, 10am - 12 noon at Access Oldham, Civic Centre. Please note that the final session will take place on **Thursday 11 January 2018**. Staff are on hand to help parents apply for a school place online and the sessions are delivered on a drop-in basis - booking is not required.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

ORANGUTAN DAY



Congratulations to Year 6 for organising a sponsored run and raising a MASSIVE £647

A fantastic effort by the whole class. Thank you to everyone who sponsored Year 6.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

We are delighted that all the Year 6 pupils of St Mary's School have been invited to work on a very special project. The project has been brought to us by one of the parents of an ex pupil, Mrs Shipton. Mrs Shipton works in the Palliative Care at the Manchester Royal Infirmary Hospital and is currently creating a room for relatives of very poorly patients. The aim is to make this room as relaxing and calming as possible and to this end our pupils have been invited to complete some art work incorporating the trusts symbol of a butterfly. As a school we invited Mr Hugh Templeton, an artist, to work with Year 6 to create some fantastic images and the materials were kindly donated by Clarkcraft, Ramsbottom.



The paintings have now been taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary to be hung in the relatives' room and the Year 6 School Councilors, Katie and Alfie, will accompany staff to the Grand Opening next week.

This has been an amazing opportunity for our pupils and the school to be involved in and we feel privileged to have been a part of something that could really make a difference to patients and their families.

E SAFETY:

Online Gaming

Online gaming is becoming increasingly popular amongst pupils as one of their favourite pastimes when not in school. Young people now have greater access to online games via their mobile phones, computer consoles and tablets. In the same way that social media works, online gaming allows pupils the opportunity to communicate with other users and to also have access to a broader range of games to enjoy over the internet.

There are many aspects of online gaming that parents and carers can be unsure of and as a school, we look to offer as much advice and support as possible with these issues. Attached to this email is an Introduction to Online Gaming leaflet. The leaflet aims to inform parents and carers what they need to know about gaming, and offers advice specifically related to keeping children safe whilst enjoying online gaming.

Please find the time to read the leaflet attached to this newsletter as it offers useful advice, support links and where to report online gaming and internet safety concerns.

YouTube

You may also have seen news reports about inappropriate children's videos on YouTube.

These are videos that, at first, appear to be for children, as they include cartoon characters such as Peppa Pig, or characters from Disney films such as Frozen. However, later on the videos become violent or disturbing. One, for example, shows Peppa Pig being tortured at the dentist.

The videos can appear in YouTube search results when children look for genuine children's videos.

Again please take a look at the factsheet attached to this newsletter as this explains how you can protect your child when they are using YouTube apps.

Both leaflets are also available on the school website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:

PANTOMIME:

Once again all pupils are visiting Oldham Coliseum to watch Dick Whittington. Thank you to all the parents who joined us as helpers, we could not run this event without your support. Thank you also to Mrs Hardman who does a fantastic job of organising and co-ordinating such a large school trip. Thanks also to St Mary's Support Group for subsidising the trip each year by donating £1000.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER

Please see the letter written below from the School Council:

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Make the world better with a sweater!



On Friday 15th December 2017 we are inviting ALL pupils (and all staff) to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day! This will be for Save the Children.


St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Address: Rushcroft Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7PP

Tel: 0161 770 8309

E-mail: info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mrs J Hardman BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH

Everyone is invited to come to school in their jolliest, silliest or cosiest Christmas woollies and **make a donation of £1**, to help save children around the world. If your child doesn't own a festive sweater already, dig out a plain jumper and decorate it with tinsel, baubles or homemade snowflakes. You can also wear Christmas colours of red and /or green. Whatever you choose to do please **DO NOT** go out and buy a jumper!

By wearing your jumper you will be supporting the work of Save the Children. You will be helping those affected by, crisis and children fighting life- threatening conditions. £1 could buy a raincoat to help protect a child refugee from the elements. £124 could buy a teacher kit with the supplies to continue providing children with lessons at a school in Syria.

We'd really appreciate your help to make Christmas Jumper Day a huge success and are looking forward to a woolly fun day.

Please note this is a non-uniform day with a Christmas Jumper theme, £1:00 per pupil.

From St. Mary's School Council.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

This year, Christmas lunch will take place on **Friday 15th December**. For those children who have packed lunches, parents are invited to make their lunches festive, should they wish to do so.

REMINDER PHOTOGRAPHS IN SCHOOL:

With lots of Nativities, Christmas Performances and Concerts coming up in the next few weeks please can I remind parents about the protocol in school.

Please do not upload any images onto the internet which include other pupils OR members of staff. This includes all social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. We respectfully ask that parents adhere to these guidelines in the interest, safety and privacy of all our pupils and adults in school. Failure to adhere to these requests may lead to a withdrawal of permission to photograph and video future school events.

SCHOOL BAND AND CHOIR:

The Choir will perform the first of their Christmas Concerts on Saturday 2nd December at St Paul's Church at 11:30am and then in the evening of the same day, at St. James Parish Church (Barry St, Oldham). The latter performance is organised by the Rotary Club and all proceeds are for charity. We wish all our pupils well and I am sure they will perform and entertain their audiences superbly.

Future performances include: the Community Christmas Party, during the school day, on Tuesday 12th December and our own Carol Service on the 19th December where they will also be joined by the School Band and Woodwind Group. Can I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Roberts, Mrs Housley, Mr Meaden and Mrs Meaden for all their hard work and commitment, and also all the parents who give up their time to bring the pupils and support us at these events, at what is already a very busy time of year.

Please note all **band** children and **woodwind**, will need their instruments in school on Tuesday 19th December.


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SPRING TERM:

SCHOOL MEALS and DINNER MONEY:

A reminder that dinner money can be paid either half termly or termly. The cost for the next half term, (4th Jan - 9th Feb) is £56.70. The cost for the whole term up until Easter is £117.60

Please note our preferred method of payment is Parent Pay. If you need any assistance in getting this started please contact the school office. Thank you

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES NEXT HALF TERM

Monday: Anna's Dance 3:30 - 4:30pm Details to follow

Tuesday: Infant Fun Club 12:00 - 12:30 with Mr Gordon (Sports Development Officer)
Fun Club: 12:30 -1:00 Yr3 - 4 with Mr Gordon (Sports Development Officer)
Circuit Training: 3:30 - 4:30pm Yrs 3,4 this term with Mr Gordon (Sports Development Officer)
Mr Gardner's Badminton 8:30 - 9:00am

Wednesday: Mr Gardner's Badminton 3:30 - 4:30pm

Thursday: ICT club 12:00 - 12:30 Year 6 with Mr Taylor
Choir 3:30 -4:30pm with Mrs Housley and Mrs Roberts

Friday: Gymnastics 3:30 -5:00pm with Mrs Oxley

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Please log on to find current information about school. For latest updates and news you can also follow St Mary's School on twitter at: www.twitter.com/stmarysce

Website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk


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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wed 10th January: Support Group Meeting North Star 7:00pm
Friday 19th January: Year 3 Assembly
Tues 30th January: Year 6 visit to Manchester Cathedral - God and The Big Bang
W/c 5th February: E-safety week - more details to follow
Tues 6th February: Parents Evening 3:00 - 6:10pm - details to follow
Wed 7th February: Parents Evening 3:00 - 6:10pm - details to follow
Thurs 8th February: School Disco - details to follow
Fri 9th February: Year 1 Class Assembly

**Please Note: School Closes for Christmas on Tuesday 19th December
and reopens on Thursday 4th January**

These final weeks of term are very busy and exciting. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

On behalf of all the Staff, Pupils and Governors at St. Mary's CE Primary School, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Kind regards,
P.A Hartley
Headteacher