

Newsletter December 2018

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 next draw for the 150 club will be on Friday 7th December and then again on the 21st December at the Carol Service 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. Best of luck!

The next Support Group meeting is on 15th January at 7:00pm at the North Star. The Parent Support Group are an extremely valuable part of our school. The funds they raise allows school to purchase specific items and complete bigger projects to enhance the children's experience at school. Also and importantly, discos, cinema nights, markets etc. are great fun and wonderful opportunities for the children to socialise outside of the normal school day. The events also provide parents with the opportunity to meet, chat and make friends with people that we may ordinarily only see whilst making a tricky 6 point turn in the car park at pick up. In order for our Support Group to continue to be so successful, we are always looking for new members so that the group can grow, enjoy new ideas and share the organisation of these events. So **please**, if you are able to offer a little time (something we all have precious little of these days) do come along and get involved and help ensure that our Parent Support Group continues to play an important role in the life of our school.

ASSEMBLIES:

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

The Christmas Service is scheduled to take place on Friday 21st December 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.

Please note there will be no further Friday assembly on the 21st December.

Future Class Assemblies Are:

25th January Year 3 Class Assembly

8th 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.

PLACES IN RECEPTION 2019:

If your child is due to start school in September 2019, please make sure you have completed your application on line before 5pm on the 15th January 2019. 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.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY:

ORANGUTAN DAY



Congratulations to Year 6 for organising a sponsored run and raising £298.13 for the Orangutan Foundation. A fantastic effort by the whole class. Thank you to everyone who sponsored any of our pupils.

TEAMS4U

A huge thanks you to all parents and pupils who supported and send in Christmas Shoeboxes. The school was able to send 70 boxes to Belarus to help those less fortunate than ourselves and receive a gift this Christmas.



REMEMBRANCE

Staff and pupils marked the end of WW1 centenary by writing poppy prayers and prayers for peace, on crosses which are displayed in the school main entrance. The comments we have received from so many visitors have been very complimentary.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Just before half term we celebrated 'World Mental Health Awareness Day'. Pupils were encouraged to consider how taking care of our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health. The powerpoint that was used during worship and in classes to discuss this important issue can be found on the school website.

<https://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk/emotional-health-and-mental-wellbeing>

There are other resources and links to websites on this page that you might find useful.

E-SAFETY

E-safety is also a high priority for staff and parents. We regularly retweet 'National Online Safety' guides. Please follow us on twitter or take a look at the e-safety section of the school website for further guidance.

Some of the guides available include 'Fortnite' and 'screen addiction'.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:

PANTOMIME:

Once again our pupils had an exciting time visiting Oldham Coliseum to watch Cinderella. 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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

This year, Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday 19th 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 have already been extremely busy this year with two Christmas performances. The performances began on Saturday 1st December where the choir sang at St Paul's Church and then in the evening, of the same day, they performed again at St. James Parish Church, Oldham. The latter performance was organised by the Rotary Club and all proceeds were donated to Grace's Place/Forget Me Not charity, which is a children's hospice.

The pupils at all events sang beautifully and behaved impeccably. Mrs Roberts, Mrs Housley and I were so very proud of St. Mary's pupils; they were a credit to the school and their parents. Can I take this opportunity to thank not only Mrs Roberts and Mrs Housley for all their hard work and commitment, but 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. Well done all choir members - you were stunning!

The choir will next sing for the Community Christmas Party on Tuesday 11th December and will join the school band to sing and play on the 21st December at the School Carol Service in St Mary's Church.

Please note all band and woodwind players (excluding beginners) will need their instruments in school on Friday 21st December.


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

SCHOOL COUNCIL: CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER

Please see the letter written below from the School Council:

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Make the world better with a sweater!



On Friday 14th December 2018 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.

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 snow flakes. You can also wear Christmas colours of red and /or green. What ever 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. Every £2 sent could pay for the antibiotics to treat five children suffering from pneumonia, one of the biggest killers of children.

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

From
St. Mary's School Council.


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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, (8th Jan - 15th Feb) is £60.90. The cost for the whole term up until Easter is £123.90. 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

GDPR

Please can all parents ensure they notify the school office of any changes to contact details, including personal and work contact details and change of address.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES NEXT HALF TERM

Monday: Choir 3:30 - 4:30pm with Mrs Roberts and Mrs Housley

Tuesday: Infant Fun Club 12:00 - 12:30 with Mr Beasley (Sports Development Officer)
Fun Club: 12:30 - 1:00 Yr3 - 4 with Mr Beasley (Sports Development Officer)
Circuit Training: 3:30 - 4:30pm Yrs 3 and 4 this half term with Mr Beasley (Sports Development Officer)

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

Thursday: ICT club 12:00 - 12:30 Year 6 with Mr Taylor
Fame Academy 3:30 - 4:15pm Years 1, 2,3 and 4

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 14th January Road Safety Talk Reception
Tues 15th January: Support Group Meeting North Star 7:00pm
Fri 18th January Road Safety Walk year 1
Friday 25th January: Year 3 Assembly
W/c 4th February: E-safety week - more details to follow
Friday 8th February Year 1 Class Assembly
Tues 12th February: Parents Evening 3:00 - 6:10pm - details to follow
Wed 13th February: Parents Evening 3:00 - 6:10pm - details to follow
Thurs 14th February: School Disco - details to follow

**Please Note: School Closes for Christmas on Friday 21st December
and reopens on Tuesday 8th 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