



Weekly Newsletter - Friday 27th November 2020 - Autumn Term

Email: office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk

Executive Headteacher, Mrs S Hulme. Chair of Governors, Mr B Tomkins

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs. S Hulme Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan & Miss E Bryant Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the First Sunday of Advent we start to focus our minds on the celebration of Christ's birth. Through this current time, we will all look forward to hearing Christmas tunes to cheer us up. This term is the longest and perhaps the one when we most need a treat at the end for children, staff and parents.

May your family preparations get a boost with some businesses opening up once again and for you to enjoy the pleasures of putting the lights and decorations up at home.

Thank you for the positive responses following the distribution of the Autumn Reports. The feedback has been good regarding the format and the clear targets. If any parent has further queries - please make contact via the school office.

COVID 19 measures in school in response to positive cases

Firstly, congratulations to everyone for being really diligent this term and respecting school measures for the protection of us all.

It is due to this shared safeguarding that positive cases have been limited to just 4 children only over the entire Federation. As a courtesy it is important for us to share the following information;

When the school office receives a confirmed single case - detailed actions are put into motion. In the case of a positive result in the family, all members of that family need to isolate according to the Public Health England guidance. If a child shows symptoms and has taken a test resulting in a positive outcome, then Mrs Hulme follows procedures by calling Public Health England and gives them details of when the pupil was last in school and who are the close contacts in the bubble. Depending on the last day of attendance and the date of the onset of symptoms and the test, they direct the school as to what action should be taken including the calculation of the isolation period. If the child has not attended school for a number of days, then there may not be any action taken to isolate a group. It is important for you all to know the school procedures and knowing that we are following the appropriate guidance for the safety of all.

Red Wednesday

Thank you for your support on **Red Wednesday** this week. This campaign, organised by Aid to the Church in Need, calls for respect and tolerance for people of faith and between different faiths. **Red Wednesday** shines a light on Christian persecution (the most persecuted faith group in today's world), but also allows us to pray for all who suffer for their faith. Thank you for helping us spread Christ's message of peace and love. For more information, please visit this international charity, which has UK headquarters in Sutton. <https://acnuk.org/about/>

Our colourful Reverse Advent Calendar display, with new doors made by some of the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team, is now in place and awaiting donations of food, toiletries (new and unopened only please) and new socks (men's preferred). Thank you in advance for your support for this initiative. *"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ."* (Pope Francis)



Travelling Cribs



During Advent, at the Junior School, a popular Advent Tradition is the Travelling Cribs which children bring home to their families for one evening. This year, we have made some changes to ensure we all stay safe.

Year 3 children, who have not yet had the chance to take the Travelling Cribs home, will have the opportunity to do so. Children can set up the scene, light the battery operated candle and write a prayer in the book before returning the bag to school. All of our nativity sets will be in Y3, and will be quarantined for at least 5 days before going home to another family. Teachers will organise this, and we ask you to remember to return your crib the next day.

We thank the parents and children in Y4,5 and 6 for giving their turn up to help us stay safe. These pupils will be given a Crafty Crib Kit to bring home instead. They can make a nativity scene to keep at home. Thank you for your support.

PS. Every year, some Travelling Cribs never make it back to school. If you know you have one of our Travelling Crib sets at home, please return it to the office.

News for the week

Christmas Card - Post boxes

Christmas cards will be running again this year for the children, but due to COVID some changes will be made as we would need all Christmas cards to be handed in between 1st December - 11th December 2020, where they will then be isolated for a week to conform with guidelines. The cards will then be given out a week later to ensure COVID 19 safety for everyone.

Christmas Messages (Junior School) - CAFOD

Each year the children have enjoyed sending in a short Christmas message to be put on to the TV screen in the dining hall. This is intended as a replacement for sending Christmas cards. We are asking for a 50p donation for these Christmas messages, which will be sent to this year's Christmas charity of CAFOD. Please send all money and messages in an envelope with the child's full name and class.

Water Tower - Works

The Water Tower are currently having works completed to their roof, please remind children to remain cautious at all times when walking near to the works.