



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336
Executive Head Teacher Mrs M.Graham (BEd Hons) NPQH
Head of School Mrs A Tumelty (BA Hons) NPQH
soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

3rd December 2021

Dear families,

I hope you are all safe and well. We are now enjoying the advent season in school and the children have been working really hard and they are ready for a rest.

School site

You will notice that some equipment in the yard is out of use at the moment; we have scheduled repairs and they should be up and working again soon. Please continue to keep your children off the equipment until the repairs are completed.

Each year we have a tree survey completed to make sure that the trees in school are safe; this year's survey will take place this month. We act quickly if any trees need to be trimmed or removed.

Online safety

I have attached information posters about Tik Tok and Snap Chat on ClassDojo. If you would like a hard copy then please let me know and I will send a copy home with your child. A reminder that both of the APPs are aged 13+. If your child does have access to the APPs, then please consider the use of it and check that the content is appropriate.

Curriculum offer

As part of the allocated hours that we teach each subject in school, we are hosting an Art Day next Thursday. All term, the children have been taught about famous artists and the techniques that they use. On Thursday, they are gaining a deeper understanding of this and further developing their skills. If possible please send your child into school with an oversized shirt (old adult shirt) to use as an art shirt. The shirts will remain in school and will be used for messy activities. We do have some spare shirts, so please do not go and buy a shirt for this occasion.

We have purchased a school led package called Commando Joe's and the staff have been trained in this, so are now able to deliver it to the children. During the first two weeks of the spring term, we will be hosting Commando Joe days for each class. The children should come to school in their PE kits and they will take part in group challenges to allow them to work as a team and build their characters. The days will be fun and the children will really enjoy the missions. This is built around the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum. We have a TOP SECRET box in the hall waiting to be used!

Tuesday 4th January- EYFS Commando Joe's Day.

Wednesday 5th January- Year 1 and Year 2 Commando Joe's Day.

Thursday 6th January- Year 3 Commando Joe's Day.

Tuesday 11th January-Year 4 Commando Joe's Day.

Wednesday 12th January- Year 5 Commando Joe's Day.

Thursday 13th January- Year 6 Commando Joe's Day.





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After school clubs

Thank you to all of the parents/carers that completed the survey regarding our after school/ extra-curricular clubs. Each half term, we provide 5 weeks of clubs. The majority of clubs are led by school staff and we utilise their skills and this keeps the clubs at only £1 each. When we bring in external agencies, then we charge £2 per club as we have to pay their staff- these clubs often run at a financial loss to the school, but it is important that we offer a range of activities.

The school council have collected information from the classes and we will take their opinions on board when we offer the next cycle of clubs.

Children are allowed to bring a snack to clubs, but please do not send your child with a full packed lunch as this reduces the time that they spend enjoying the activities.

Following the feedback from the surveys:

- We only use Grassroots clubs on a Friday as their staff are in school delivering PE on that day, and school staff like to use this time to complete their marking or assessments for the week and to prepare for the week ahead.
- We cannot deliver clubs on a Monday as we have full staff training each week, however, I will look for an external agency to provide a Monday club.
- If your child attends an extra-curricular club, they can be collected from this club and taken straight to wraparound- the wraparound price is then reduced.
- We do not like to turn any children away from clubs, so we do not limit numbers, however due to safety reasons we do sometimes specify specific year groups per club.

Climate change

Yesterday, our head boy and head girl had a Zoom meeting with the Jarrow cluster schools in regards to how we can help to make changes at home and at school. The meeting was hosted by Fr Dixon and Fr Saji and was in response to the Bishop's letter regarding COP26. The information will be shared with the Eco Warriors and then passed to each class.



Advent services

As you know, we are unable to host 'live' events in school. The reason behind this is to protect all of the children and staff in school. Unfortunately, we do have rising numbers of COVID in school, including teachers.

The decision was made after reviewing public health guidance and our school risk assessment combined with the changes for vaccinated people who have been a close contact with an omicron case. The impact of face to face events could have caused staff to isolate, potentially closing the school and impacting many families during the festive season.

We are recording events and they will be shared in the last week of term.





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School uniform

Our school uniform is available through Emblematic and Initial images. Emblematic will sew your child's name on the uniform free of charge making it easier to return to the owner. School can take orders and process this on your behalf if you wish. See the office to discuss this.

Please ensure that your child is dressed in appropriate clothing for school. Trainers are not suitable unless it is a PE day. On a PE day, the children must wear plain navy bottoms, a white t-shirt and a school jumper or navy hoody. Please support your child by providing the correct uniform as they will feel embarrassed if they are not in the correct uniform. We can support families that cannot provide a correct uniform for their child.

Swimming

Year 4 will continue to have swimming lessons after the holidays and as part of the curriculum catch up offer, Year 5 will also be attending on a Friday. Year 6 will no longer be having swimming lessons next half term.

Year 6 Thurston Trip

We are pleased to announce that we have arranged a 4 night residential for the year 6 pupils and information has been shared previously about this. If you have not yet paid the £10 deposit for the trip, then please do as soon as possible. If you need to discuss payment then please speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to help you. We really do want all Y6 children to attend.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome Miss Mowbray back from her maternity leave on Monday. We have also persuaded Mrs. Smith to come out of retirement and sign up with a supply agency, so you may see her around school to cover for any staff absences or staff training.

Upcoming dates

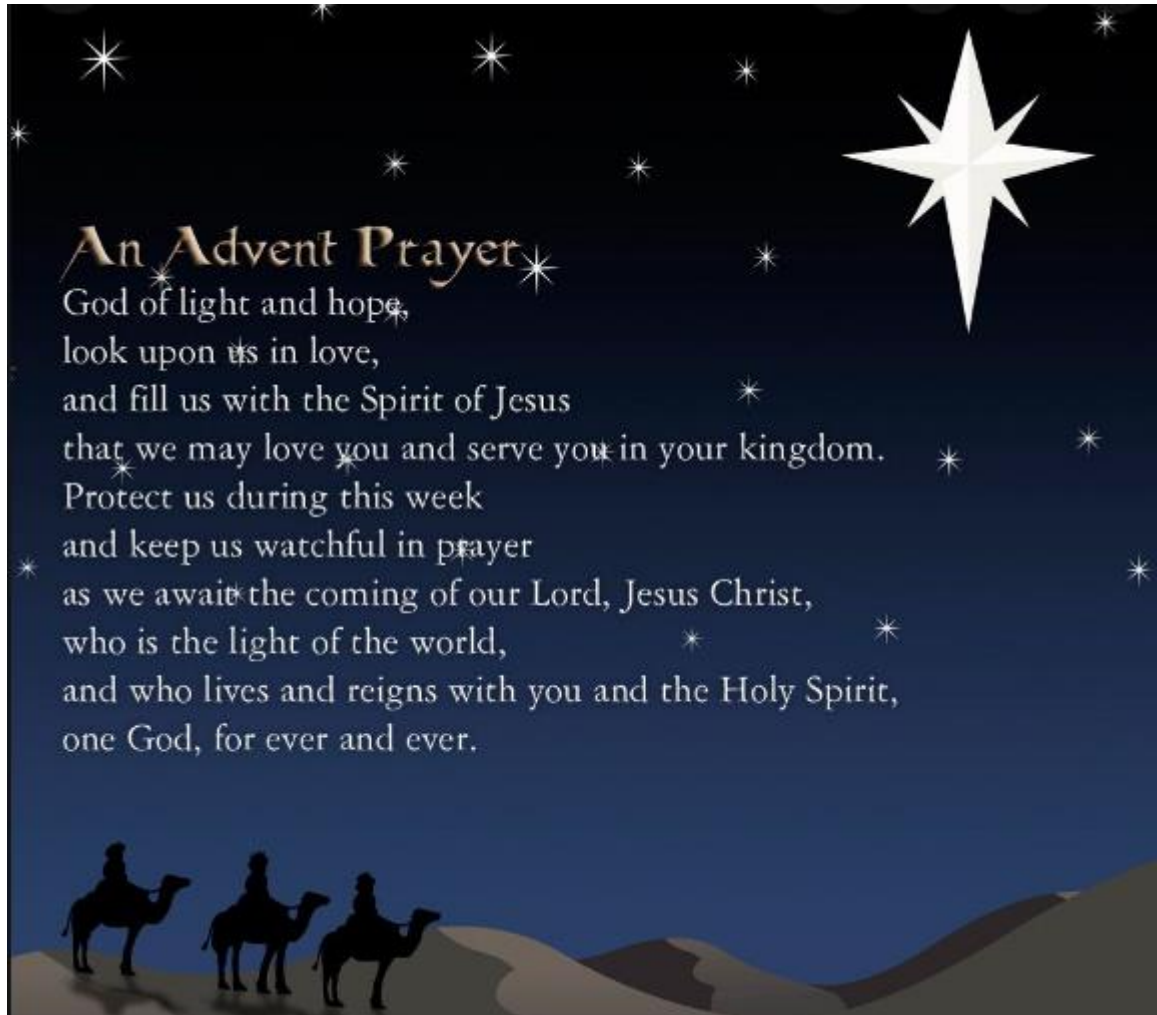
Tuesday and Wednesday 7 th and 8 th December	Recording of Advent activities
Tuesday 7 th December	Choir to sing in the Church to be recorded for the Big Sing
Friday 10 th December	Jolly Jumper Day- any jumper/top can be worn with school uniform. Do not feel that you need to purchase a special jumper.
Monday 13 th December	Christmas Dinner Day and Jolly Jumper Day
Monday 13 th December	Christmas Movie Night
Tuesday 14 th December	KS1- Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 th December	EYFS- Nursery and Reception and KS2- Year 3-6 Christmas Party
Friday 17 th December	School closes at 1:30pm





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Yours sincerely,

Mrs. A Tumelty
Acting Head of school.

