



# St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
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Head of School: Mrs G Quinlan

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

## First Sunday of Advent

### Catholic Life of the School

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a word which means 'important arrival'. The Gospel will remind us that there is no time to lose. We shouldn't put off our good resolutions until the New Year. Advent is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make any necessary changes.

Like the disciplines were reminded by Jesus, we too are reminded to 'Be on your guard, stay awake. When a rich man travels abroad, he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge and orders the doorkeeper to keep a good watch. So, always be ready – because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you unready for him. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake – be ready!'

***'Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus'. Pope Francis***

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November we were delighted to welcome Fr Alex to St Mary's; during his visit Father Alex blessed the crib in the presence of Year 1 and Year 2. This has become a St Mary's tradition; Sister Philomena was also able to mark this occasion with the children.



A very beautiful nativity scene created by Miss Evans last year has also been mounted. We give thanks for her beautiful work and remember her family at this time.

**The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish events** – Fr Alex has asked us to share events at his parish with all parents. You do not have to be in his parish to attend the services, **all** families are welcome.

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Reconciliation Service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	7.00pm	Nativity Play and Carols
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass. After Mass Santa will be in the church hall – join him for gifts, refreshments and a celebration.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Day</b>	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Holy Family Feast Day</b>	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December <b>New Year's Eve</b>	7.00pm 8.00pm	Thanksgiving Service Mass
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 <b>New Year's Day</b>	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass

### St Mary's Mission Statement

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing our belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

Our School Mission is as follows:

We stand on holy ground

We will always open our doors in welcome

We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us

We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school

We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

### Star of the Week

Talya	EYFS 1	For being keen to participate in activities and never giving up.
Robel	EYFS 2	For trying really hard in all aspects of school life.
Sebastian	1P	For always working hard and trying his very best.
Natneal	2M	For using creative sentences in his writing.
Skye	3M	For working well with others in a group.
Natneal	3Q	For trying incredibly hard at improving his spellings.
Ahamd	4A	For applying himself in Mathematics and making great progress.
Simao	4G	For excellent behaviour and working hard during all lessons this week.
Liam	5O	For great effort in spelling tests.
Manuel	5P	For excellent behaviour and having a positive attitude in class.
Lee Ryan	6H	For being resilient when faced with challenges in his work.
Frankie	6M	For working hard to improve his reading comprehension skills.

**Attendance School attendance** - Congratulations to the children in 3Q as they achieved 100% attendance last week; Congratulations are also due to 6H who have the highest attendance since September 2017 with 99.2%.

Please remember that if your child is absent from school, and we have not already been informed in advance, parents must telephone the school by 9.00am on every day of absence. This is a very important safeguarding measure to ensure we know the whereabouts of every child.

If a child's whereabouts are unknown or unclear, the school will contact Brent's Children Missing in Education team so they can carry out an investigation.

**Old and New** – look at the before and after pictures. Many parents have commented very warmly about the new and improved image of the school. The classrooms are much warmer and draught free and add greatly to the more secure learning environment.



**School mini bus** - We were very excited this week when our brand new school mini bus was delivered to St Mary's. This will be a valuable asset for St Mary's and will allow our pupils access to the many benefits of out-of-school activities. Father Alex blessed the mini bus and prayed for safe journeys on all school visits.

