



St Mary's Catholic School  
Weekly Newsletter



12.12.25

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<https://stmarysbc.bhcet.org.uk>

*'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Phil 4:13*  
*We are journeying together through Advent*

Dates for diary (Please also see Weduc Calendar and Newsfeeds)

[School Holiday sheets available from the office](#)

For sports festivals for your child's class, please see additional messages from Mrs Jennings our sports lead and class teachers too.

Every Tuesday Morning: Toddler Group 9.15- 10.45am. £3 per session.  
All very welcome!

**TODDLER SESSIONS BEGIN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2026.**

Break Up Friday 19th December and return to school Monday 5th  
January 2026

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS



#### MINUTES COUNT!

**Attend Today= Achieve Tomorrow**

Every minute counts so can we make a big effort to get our children to school before **9am, ready for prompt registration at 9am. Anyone arriving after the 9am register is marked late. Fines FOR BEING LATE CAN ALSO OCCUR.**

Holidays during term time WILL NOT be authorised, and the fine for holidays is increasing to **£80 per child, per adult.**

Thankyou as always parents for your support.

St Mary's raised a total of **£107.32** for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you for supporting the appeal and to the children who sold the poppies each day after school. District total I am told is an amazing £11,153.57. Fantastic!

#### Christmas Dates for diary:

Friday 12th December: Christmas Party day

Tuesday 16th December: Nativity Performances:

EYFS ( Wrens and Robins) 9.30am

Larks and Swifts Class 2.30pm and 5.30pm

Thursday 18th December : School Disco 5.30pm -7.30pm

Friday 19th December: Carol Service at Church. Owls class narrating 3.45pm ( straight after end of day collection from school)

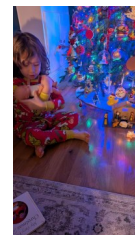


### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to both Reece and Elodie this week. I hope you both have a wonderful day!



Thank you for sharing pictures with us of the Travelling Crin in EYFS. It is wonderful to see the joy of Christmas preparations being shared at home with our families too. The children love to show the other children their pictures. Thankyou. Our Faith Journey section on the website has more pictures to share too.



#### Family Mass Dates for 2025-2026

Each term here at St Mary's we gather together for our 'Family Mass' with Father Thomas, at St Mary's Catholic Church in Barnard Castle.

Parents, Grandparents, friends and family are all very welcome to join us- catholic or non- catholic, you are all so welcome and we do encourage you ( if you can) to come along and join us.

The dates for your diary are as follows:

- ♦ **Autumn Term Mass: Thursday 18th September 2025**  
**Thankyou to everybody who joined us for Mass!**
- ♦ **Spring Term Mass: Thursday 26th March 2026**
- ♦ **Summer term Mass : Friday 17th July 2026**

#### Holy Communion 2025

Children making their First Holy Communion this year are: **Katie, Rosalia, Gabriela, Margaret and Raph**. Please keep the children in your prayers throughout their preparation journey. Thankyou to both Father Thomas and Mrs McAuley who lead and organise the weekly preparation classes.





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**PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Jubilee Year 2025**

**'Let your Light Shine Before Others' Matthew 5:16**



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**Our Trust Virtues**

Our Trust Virtues are weaved into all areas of our curriculum, and everything we do here at St Mary's. It is important that as we teach the virtues to our children that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary as well as what that looks like in themselves, in

others, in our school. Here are the 8 Virtues that we promote and celebrate as a school community:

- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Justice
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Self Belief
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Confidence



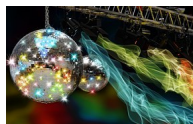
These virtues link closely to our Catholic Social Teaching Principles (CST) that underpin everything we do as a school, and as a Trust.

This Sunday will be the 3rd Sunday of Advent. We will see the pink candle lit at Mass. I wonder if you know what this candle represents for us? I will ask you on Monday when we gather in the hall.

Lots of Advent pictures from around school on our website/Blog/Around School Page and Journey in Faith section too.



**DISCO TICKETS**



Tickets for the Christmas Disco are now available to pay on MCAS. Tickets for the disco are £3 or £5 for a family ticket. Get your dancing shoes ready boys and girls!

**\*Nursery children and reception children (Wrens and Robins) need to be accompanied by an adult at the disco- obviously no charge for the adult tickets.**

**Attendance this week**

**'Minutes count, Attendance Matters!'**



**Robins- 98%**

**Larks- 97%**

**Swifts- 95%**

**Owls- 97%**

School holidays during term time will not be authorised. Our attendance policy is available on our website for further information.

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

**Every day. Every pupil. Every minute!  
Make it count!**

**PARTY DAY!**

This afternoon we have all had an afternoon full of festive fun! Party clothes, party games and of course party food. The children ( and staff) have all thoroughly enjoyed it!

A very big thank you to Mrs Clennell who comes in each year without fail to help with the party preparations. It is such a help and much appreciated. Thankyou!

I will add photographs of this afternoon to our social medias too.



What an absolutely beautiful Christmas Lunch we had this week- thanks to both Miss Bunford and Mrs Hiles in the kitchen. It really was delicious and lovely to share the lunchtime in the hall with all children and staff together.



Thankyou both for all of your hard work- this time of year in the kitchen is as equally busy as the classrooms! Thankyou.

*'That was lovely. There's nothing I don't like on a Christmas dinner!'* Robert Y6

