



"Grow together in Christ"

Rothwell St. Mary's  
Catholic Primary School Leeds



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(0113) 2828182

## Head Teacher's Newsletter 13 – 7.12.22

### Virtue: PATIENCE

I can accept things I cannot change with humour and grace.



Dear Families,

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judea and this was his message: "Repent, change your ways; for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said, 'A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John said to the people, "I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Everyone can learn more about this Gospel in Church ~ all are warmly invited. Adapted from **Matthew 3: 1-12 ( the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A )**

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us to look into our hearts this Advent and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better. This is how we can prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed. Let's not miss out!

**Attendance:** Last week, the class with the best attendance was Year 4 with 100%. They are certainly doing well this year! This is amazing attendance. Keep this up Reception and Year 1 and everyone else will follow!



**Gold Book Assembly:** This week we will enjoy a poetry recital by Year 6 at the beginning of our assembly. We are back to welcoming you to join classes between 8.30 am and 9.00am. Please join us if you can as we also prepare for Christmas and celebrate week 2 of Advent.

**Friday 16th December:** We will end this half term with mass at 9am on this day. We will be offering a cuppa and a breakfast sandwich to parents afterwards. If you plan on coming and would like to join us after mass, then please can you let the office know for catering purposes. It will be lovely to get together on this day. The children will have a brunch meal on this day in preparation for finishing at 1pm.

**FOSM Disco:** A big shout out to Sarah Findlay and her team. The children had a great time at the Disco. This was something mentioned on our recent questionnaires! As we know, these events do not happen by chance so thank you to everyone involved- those who did the shopping, those who cooked, did nail, tattoos, entertained and most importantly, cleaned up!!

### Important days and dates for this half term



Are you entitled to Free School Meals but don't take them up – this could save you £420 per year!!

#### Monday 12th December

Reception & Y1 Nativity  
1.30pm and 5.30pm  
Tickets for sale on School Money – proceeds to Leeds Street Angels.

#### Tuesday 13th December

Christmas Dinner day- Christmas jumpers can be worn instead of school jumpers – head bands and Christmas accessories are allowed too (even for the staff!!)

#### Thursday 15th December

Party Afternoon – party clothes can be worn all day

#### Friday 16th December

Mass 9am  
Parent tea/coffee/ mince pie/ sausage sandwiches  
Brunch Dinner 11am  
Break up at 1pm



#### Tuesday 3rd January

Happy New Year  
Welcome back to 2023

#### Friday 20th January

Year 3 Class Assembly

#### Friday 3rd February

Year 5 Ice Skating

**Assemblies-** Class Assemblies for the year were sent out last week. Here they are again for anyone who missed the email: Year 4 will lead us this coming Friday – come along and see our amazing pupils.

Term	Spring 1	Spring 2	Sum 1	Sum 2	Sum 2
Year	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Year 6	Rec
Date	20/1/23	10/3/23	5/5/23	16/6/23	14/7/23

**Poetry Recitals:** In an aim to continue to encourage a love of reading, we are introducing poetry recitals in assemblies this year. Here are the dates when your child's class will perform:

**Year 6 – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

- Year 5- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Reception- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023
- Year 2- 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Year 1 – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- Year 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Year 3 – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**FOSM:** FOSM will be running a Christmas raffle with some great prizes to help with your Christmas spending (as well as a couple of prizes just to treat yourselves!) Raffle tickets will be going out in school bags 28<sup>th</sup> November, please can you return these by 7<sup>th</sup> December in time for the draw on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December at the Nativity. Good luck everyone.

**Christmas Gifts:** I am aware that everyone is stretched now. I am requesting that **NO** gifts are bought this year for staff. It is a lovely thought but a card with a message is far more powerful and thoughtful. If you want to do something worthwhile, we will be doing our reverse Advent calendar. This message has been sent this week. All donations will make up 7 hampers for families.

**Cost of Living/ Benefits:** As a country, we are fully aware of the increases to the cost of living. Many people are not aware of the many benefits that are available out there or feel embarrassed to apply. This should never be the case. Here is the link to Leeds City Council benefits page. Please take a look if you feel that you could possibly qualify for any of these. You may also be entitled to Free School Meals along with this. As the image across shows, you could save yourself £420 a year on this. If anyone is unsure or wants to chat about this confidentially, please do come and see me – I am always happy to help any family. <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/benefits>

**Admission into Reception** This will officially open on 1<sup>st</sup> November and run until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. If your child will be 4 before 31<sup>st</sup> August, then you need to apply during this round. **Please apply online AND come and ask for a supplementary information form at school or download from our school website [www.rothwellstmarys.co.uk](http://www.rothwellstmarys.co.uk)**

**FOSM:** FOSM is registered for Amazon Smile which is a simple way to support us every time you shop. It is easy to select us as your chosen charity and Amazon donate 0.5% of purchases made! To support us please go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1115799-0> or search for Friends Of St Mary's School Rothwell at smile.amazon.co.uk. There's a few so look for Rothwell. Thank you!

We're also registered with easyfundraising Every time you shop online with any of 2,700 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, and Argos, you can raise money for Friends of St Mary's. Just visit the easyfundraising site [here](#), and click 'Shop Online' to find your preferred retailer. It only takes a few seconds and is a great way to easily contribute to FOSM. Just remember to put things in your basket after you've clicked the link!

**Your School Lottery**

Our school lottery has launched, and tickets are available now! To be in with a chance of winning and raise funds for the school please visit [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk) and click on Buy a ticket.



**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

FOSM  
Valentine Disco

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

Young Voices

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Break up for Half Term

**Collective Worship Times**  
**Parents are invited to attend**  
**in person. These will start**  
**this week.**

- Year 6 – Thursday 8.30am
- Year 5 – Thursday 2.40pm
- Year 4 – Wednesday 8.30am
- Year 3- Tuesday 2.40pm
- Year 2 – Thursday 2.40pm
- Year 1 – Tuesday 2.40pm
- Reception – Thursday 8.40 am (new time)**

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Search for the school using 'Rothwell St Mary's' and click on the Support us button under the school image.

Tickets are just £1 a week with a TOP PRIZE of £25,000, and 1 guaranteed winner for each school receives 30% of the ticket sales in the Saturday weekly draw. Remember 40% of the sales is coming straight back to FOSM and the lottery is open to anyone who'd like to support us so share with friends and family and keep boosting the prize fund.

### **Amazing BONUS prize - Win a PS5 Mega Bundle - Buy your tickets before December 10th to be entered in to the draw**

Been struggling to get your hands on the perfect Christmas present? We've got you covered... on Saturday 10th of December, with delivery in time for Christmas, one lucky supporter will win this MASSIVE PS5 bundle, worth over £1,000!

A PlayStation 5 (disc edition) with 3 highly-rated games (FIFA 23, Lego Star Wars, Stray), an extra controller, PS Pulse gaming headset, loads more goodies – AND a 43" 4K Ultra HD TV to play it all on! Christmas? Sorted.

Anyone who signs up and buys a ticket by the 10th for our first lottery on the 17th will be in the bonus PS5 draw, including those who sign up by direct debit who won't have made their first payment by the 10th.

**Twitter:** Mrs Sweeney keeps our Twitter page updated. Please follow us @rothwellstmarys – here is a glimpse of what took place last week!

Today Year 2 started 'bookvent' by opening our first book which was 'Grandad's Secret Giant' by David Litchfield. We can't wait to see what tomorrow's book will be!

We are grateful to our school family who support us in offering the children lots of opportunities to shine. As a historian, Mr Pearce joined Year 4 to re-cap their learning about The Stone Age. He was impressed by their expert knowledge & questions! #curriculum #Parents #team



Always remember that the door is open, and your first port of call should be your child's class teacher. If you need to speak further, then please see Mrs Sweeney or failing that myself. It is always better to nip things in the bud and get a resolution quickly with your child's teacher.

God Bless  
Miss S Leonard –  
Head teacher [head@rothwellstmarys.org.uk](mailto:head@rothwellstmarys.org.uk)

### **Light up our lives**

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth

Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen.



### **School website-**

Our school website holds lots of information about our school and the website address is on the top of this letter. It has newsletters and key dates for the year. It also has copies of our inspection reports, and admission forms, as well as photos. Why not take a look? We will also see the website updated by the end of the first half term so keep an eye out!

**Uniform:** Please can I remind parents the correct PE should be worn. NO named kit should be coming into school. Plain and simple navy bottoms, white tops!

**Class Pages:** On each class page you will find the teacher's planning for each half term, your class newsletter, up to date photographs and any additional information that teachers may post. Please keep a regular eye on here.

### **Safeguarding:**

Our new safeguarding policy is available on the school website. Our safeguarding team is below.

**Miss Leonard, Mrs Sweeney, Ms MacPherson, Mrs Sheldon-Price** should you wish to contact us, please use the usual address. We have a duty of care to protect all our children and families.