

# St. Mary's Primary, Wingate December 2015 Newsletter

## Christmas Fair

A great big thank you to everyone who supported this event - the Friends of the School who organised it, the volunteers on the day & beforehand, and everyone else for spending their money & selling raffle tickets. We are so grateful to them.

The amount raised of nearly £800 was absolutely amazing, especially when you consider the size of our school!!

Thank you again!!!

## Advent Collection

We are continuing to collect coppers & 5p pieces to send to CAFOD as part of their 'World Gifts' campaign. The children will choose which gifts to send to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World when they know how much they have raised - eg a pair of piglets, a school starter pack, a doctor's bicycle - really useful equipment for people.

Please encourage your child to bring money into school.

## Mini Vinnies Food Bank Collection & Collection for Refugees

We are continuing to collect food items for these wonderful charities that, unfortunately, so many people need to access at the moment. Please give generously if you can. Thankyou to our Mini Vinnies who led a lovely assembly to launch them.

## Care Home Gift Appeal

Following a school council meeting when Paddy suggested we collect presents for older members of our community after watching the John Lewis advert, lots of you have responded to his letter and sent gifts in. Thank you so much for your generosity in this appeal and in all of the appeals mentioned above. We really are a caring community.

## Congratulations

Some of our children took part in a gymnastics festival last week. Well done!

## School plays & concerts

As I write this, I am looking forward to our Class 2 & 3 carol service on Tuesday afternoon. I am sure it will be a lovely occasion.

Congratulations to our Class 1 & Year 2 pupils for trying so hard in their nativity play. Our thanks to Miss Niven and Mrs. Key for all of their hard work in preparing the children in such a short space of time, and also to Mrs. Sowerby for the lovely display.

## Christmas Parties

The children's Christmas parties take place in the afternoon.

- They can either come to school dressed in their party clothes but they may get dirty when playing outside.
- They can bring their clothes with them to change into after lunch themselves.
- Or - you can come up to school to help them get changed - after 1pm please!

### Internet Advice from the Local Authority

There is further advice from the local authority regarding parental controls on the internet. The advice is attached to this newsletter. Please do follow all advice necessary to keep our children safe on the internet.

### Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has declared this year a Holy Year of Mercy and our Diocese launched this on Sunday at St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle. We will be celebrating this in school in different ways over the year. To start this off, we are holding an advent reconciliation service in school for the children only on Thursday morning with Fr. Jackson. This should be a lovely occasion.

### Winter Weather

Please make sure your children come to school with a change of shoes & warm outdoor gear like hats & gloves. They do like to play in the snow, but we can only take children out who are appropriately dressed.

A change of shoes is really important so that they are warm all day, & so that our school floors don't get too slippery.

Please listen to the local radio stations (Metro, Galaxy & Durham FM) on a snowy morning in case we have to close - this would only be in the most extreme circumstances, as we do like to stay open. Our school website will also immediately be updated if we close the school.

### School Holidays 2016/17

The dates for next school year holidays are on our website. Just to let you know, that the children do not return to school until Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

### Dates for the Diary

16 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas party
17 <sup>th</sup> December	-	11am - Reconciliation service for children Class 1 & Year 2 Christmas party
18 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Break up for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
5 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Back to school

### And Finally...

I would like to wish everybody a happy and holy Christmas, and a wonderful new year.  
See you in 2016!



This newsletter is available in large print format if requested.