



St. Mary's Catholic Academy

December 2025

Messenger



Dear parents/carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who donated the shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were blown away with the 48 filled shoe boxes that were donated. These little boxes will help make a real difference to children on Christmas day.

On Monday 24th November, some of our children from Year One, Two and Three performed at the Victoria Hall in the City Songbirds Christmas Concert. They were all amazing and were, as always, a credit to St Mary's. The school choir also have several events coming up to help spread a little Christmas cheer!

Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent. It was lovely to see so many of our families attending the family Mass and supporting the Parish Christmas Fair. We raised £2250! The money raised will be split between the church and a local charity Pink Sisters and Misters. We are also looking forward to spending the special season of Advent in school over the coming weeks.

Today, our Year Six class shared the first of our school Advent prayer services. These services always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. You are all welcome to join us.

Tomorrow, we joined the One life Music Advent streamed event which was a perfect way to celebrate the season of Advent.

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas is fast approaching and is a very busy time in school. The Foundation stage and Key Stage One are excited to share their Christmas Nativities with you next week. I have been lucky enough to see some little bits of it this week and it is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you.

Some other important dates are:

Tuesday 16th December – Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch (any monetary donations to Douglas Macmillan Hospice would be greatly appreciated)

Wednesday 17th December, 2:30 – Advent Journey of Light Prayer Service

Thursday 18th December, 1:45 – End of term assembly

Friday 19th December, 9:30 – KS2 Carol Concert and Nativity. This is taking place in the school hall.

Please note that we return to school on Tuesday 6th January.

Thank you for your continued support during this term and I look forward to sharing this season of Advent with you.

God Bless

Mrs Statham

Head of School



In this week's Gospel we will hear how John the Baptist had an important hope-filled message announcing what people could do to prepare for Jesus' arrival. His message helps us today to live our journey of faith – the decisions we make about how we live and love today help us to live life to the full in God's presence.

The people who walked
in darkness have seen a
great light; those who
lived in a land of deep
darkness—on them light
has shined.

Isaiah 9:2



Advent

Reflection

Join us this Advent as we prepare for Christmas together with our class reflection's in December.

Thursday 4th December - Year 6
Monday 8th December - Year 5
Tuesday 9th December - Year 4
Thursday 11th December - Year 3
Monday 15th December - Year 2
Tuesday 16th December - Year 1
Thursday 18th December - Reception

All reflections will take place in the school hall at 9.05am.

St Mary's Church warmly invite you all to
Sunday 14th December @ 2pm – Christingle
Sunday 21st December @ 5pm – Carol Service
We look forward to seeing you there.

If your child is absent from school

Please telephone the school on
01782 234820,
or email office@stmarysnewman.co.uk
no later than 9.30am

SPRING TERM

INSET DAY (school closed to pupils) Monday 5th January
School opens to pupils Tuesday 6th January
Half term Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February
School opens Monday 23rd February
School closes Friday 27th April

For additional term dates, please click on the link below

[St Mary's Catholic Academy - Term Dates](http://stmarysstoke.co.uk)
(stmarysstoke.co.uk)



We invite all parents to view our Safeguarding page, where you will be able to find resources and relevant information on Children's safety.

[Click here to view the page](#)



Our Songbirds members were fantastic in their Christmas performance and sang their little hearts out! We are now all feeling very festive. Well done songbirds, your smashed it!



Operation Christmas Child

We managed to fill 48 shoeboxes which will be sent off to those in need.

Thank you for your generosity.



Tuesday 16th December

Reverse Advent Calendar



Please remember, you can bring in items for the Reverse Advent Calendar any time throughout the month of December. Items include, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, etc.

Nativity Productions and Carol Concert

Tuesday 9th - EYFS 2pm / KS1 6pm
Wednesday 10th - KS1 2pm / EYFS 5:30pm

Friday 19th – KS 2 Carol Concert and Nativity
9:30am



Save the date



Tuesday 9th December	Christmas concert FS 2pm and KS1 6pm
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas concert KS1 2pm and FS 5.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Y1 – Gatehouse Theatre
Friday 12th December	Y3 – Inspire Parents workshop 1.30pm
Monday 15th December	Reception – Amerton Farm
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas dinner day/Christmas jumper day
Thursday 18th December	End of term assembly 1.45pm
Friday 19th December	Carol concert & KS2 Nativity 9.30am (School hall)
Tues/Wed 13/14th January	Y6 – Bikeability level 3
Tuesday 13th January	Y3/Y6 Sacramental Meeting @5pm



Awards



Year	Headteacher	Reading	Maths	Goldfinch
Reception	Thomas	Imogen	Finley	Sophia
Year 1	Albie	Ellis	Raidyn	Amelia
Year 2	Noah	Evie	Aneiky	Maggie

Did you know that you can subscribe to our calendar?

All you need to do is click on the subscribe button.

Celebration assemblies and masses will appear on the calendar of your selected device.



In addition, we have added other key dates, sports day etc to the calendar.



10% Off



ST MARY'S NORTON CATHOLIC ACADEMY UNIFORM

**5 Days
Only**



*Tuesday 9th
December -
Saturday 13th
December*

Offer available in Store & Online

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Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or on an exchange

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