



# ST GREGORY'S SCHOOL

## LOVING AND LEARNING

### DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



#### NOVEMBER DATES

Friday 29 - 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. Craft Fayre  
Don't forget to Donate a cake please.

#### DATES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday 1 - 11.00 a.m. Year 2 Mass  
Thursday 5 - 10.00 a.m. Year 2 - 6 Birmingham Old Rep, 'Tom's Midnight Garden'  
- 3.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Friends of St Gregory's 'Christmas Event'.  
Come and join in the fun and see Santa in his Grotto  
Friday 6 - Election day for Parent Governor  
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Disco 2.00-3.30 p.m.  
- Years 3-6 Disco 3.30-5.00 p.m.  
Monday 9 - 'I can do it' week  
Tuesday 10 - Year 1 Edmond Hall visit  
- 10.30 a.m. Carol Concert for the senior people of the parish and those who help in school (invitation only)  
Wednesday 11 - Nursery and Reception Ash End House Farm visit  
Friday 13 - 'Wear your Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of Save the Children - don't forget to bring your £1.  
Sunday 15 - Year 4 'Christmas Around the World' at the Symphony Hall  
Monday 16 - 2.00 p.m. Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance  
Tuesday 17 - 2.00 p.m. Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance

Places are limited to 200 so no more than two tickets per family at any one performance are available. Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Tickets must be presented for the performance to ensure admittance. Children under 12 may not use tickets for the evening performance, nor will toddlers or babies be admitted to this performance. We trust that parents will not attempt to ignore this message as refusal of entry may cause offence.

Wednesday 18 - p.m. Whole school Christmas parties, children can wear their party clothes all day  
7.00 p.m. Key Stage 2 Christmas Performance  
Thursday 19 - 9.00 a.m. Foundation Performance  
Friday 20 - 9.00 a.m. Mass in School  
Christmas Lunch - **School closes at 1.30 p.m.**  
**There will be no afternoon Nursery session on Friday 21**

December.



### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Christmas Card posters have been put up in each classroom donated by St Mary's Hospice and we ask for a donation of at least £1 so that children can sign it to everyone in their class. Children are asked not to bring cards into school as we will not be providing any card delivery service in school.

### **WELL DONE!**

#### **Children in Need**

You raised the grand sum of **£230** for Children in Need. Congratulations!

### **BOOK FAIR**

The Autumn term Book Fair raised over **£854**. Thank you so much for your support the books we are able to purchase with the commission are invaluable to the school.

### **SCIENCE GARDEN**

May we kindly ask you not to walk/stand on the Science Garden in the large Playground, we look upon it as a memorial garden.

### **NOROVIRUS**

We have been informed by Sandwell Public Health that the first outbreaks of Norovirus in schools has been reported. May we ask you to reinforce the importance of good hygiene especially regular hand washing.

### **PUPILS PROGRESS REPORT**

A mini report detailing your child's progress to date will be sent out at the end of term. This will include future learning targets for your child to help them access the next steps of learning.

### **PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS - FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER**

The counting of votes will take place at 3.30 p.m. in the Year 4 Classroom.

### **DATES FOR JANUARY 2014**

**MONDAY 6** - **SCHOOL RE-OPENS**  
Tuesday 14 - Swimming begins for Years 3 and 5  
Wednesday 15 - **Closing date for Reception/Year 3 Admission forms**

### **PARENT HELPFUL WEBSITES**

Following on from the English Workshop please note websites which may be useful to you for the English Curriculum 2014.

[www.dfe.co.uk](http://www.dfe.co.uk)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/primary1000198874/english>

### **BALL GAMES**

Just a reminder not to play ball games before school. Thank you.

*The Governors and Staff would like to wish you a peaceful*

## *Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### **REFLECTION FOR ADVENT - tion and Hope**

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for “coming” or arrival and marks the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. The focus of the season of Advent is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, an anticipation and of preparation.



### **The Season of Advent: Anticipa-**

**tion**  
Church Year. The word Advent is “coming” or arrival and marks the Christmas. The focus of the season of Advent is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, an anticipation and of preparation.

### **Christmas reflection**

Christmas is the time we think of the birth of baby Jesus born in a manger, with Mary and Joseph beside him. The first witnesses of Christ’s birth were the shepherds who were considered poor and lowly but were chosen. The angels announced in glory the birth of the savior for the first time to the shepherds. God chose the shepherds and not the kings and powerful or rich people.

Christmas is not just a day to remember and commemorate, it is not just a season to celebrate ... Christmas is love. It is the time when the love of God is revealed to us and received by all people of goodwill, not only to the shepherds and the “magi” to whom the Lord has chosen to reveal, but also to us today.

Celebrating Christmas is celebrating God’s love for us all. Christmas is the highlight of a joyful and hopeful time of waiting for the savior to come.

O God,  
bless our family this Christmastime  
bind us together by your love.  
Give us kindness and patience  
to support each other;  
and wisdom in all we do.  
Let the gift of your peace  
come into our hearts  
and remain with us.

Amen.



**GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO MRS SMITH**

After many years of dedicated Service at St Gregory’s Mrs Smith will be leaving us at the end of this term.

On behalf of the Governors, Staff and yourselves I wish to thank her for shaping the lives of our youngest children over the years.

She will be taking up a Deputy Headship at a school in Birmingham. We wish her every success in her new post.



**MASSES AT CHURCH OVER CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve - 5.00 p.m. and Midnight**

**Christmas Day - 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.**



I require .....tickets for Year 3-6 performance on the afternoon of Monday 16 December at 2.00 p.m.

I require .....tickets for Years 3-6 performance on the evening of Wednesday 18 December at 7.00 p.m.

I have read and understand that no children under the age of 12, toddlers or babies will be allowed into the evening performance.

Name: ..... Child’s name ..... Year .....