



St Margaret Mary's RC Primary School
St Margaret's Road
New Moston
Manchester
M40 0JE

Tel & Answerphone: (0161) 681 1504
Fax: (0161) 682 5495

Mr M Sutton, Headteacher

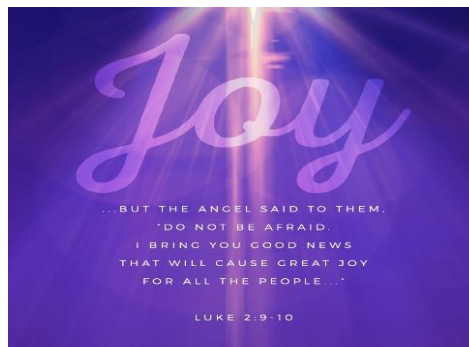
e mail: contact@st-margaretmarys.manchester.sch.uk
<https://stmargaretmarys.schoolspider.co.uk/>
X: @StMM_2021

Thursday 19th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Gaudete Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent

On Sunday we celebrated the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. We are called to 'rejoice' and be people of 'joy' as we move through Advent. The bible readings highlight welcoming a change into our lives and recognising that to invite Jesus into our lives is something richly joyful. We are urged to see the season of Advent, when we are preparing to welcome the Lord, as a time of joy and of thanksgiving.



Advent and Charitable Works

During this special Advent season, we have raised funds for those less fortunate than ourselves in our local communities and abroad. Through own clothes days and Christmas Jumper Day, your generous contributions have been donated to the Diocese of Salford – Caritas #BeeThere Appeal, to CAFOD and to Save the Children. Your kind donations for our Christmas Hamper raffle, held at this week's performances, will also be donated to the Caritas Advent Appeal.

Once again, a sincere word of thanks for all of your kind support.

Last week our School Choir, accompanied by Mrs Preen, Miss White and Miss Handrick, led a special Carol Concert at the Irish Centre, Manchester. The local community, were wonderfully entertained by our pupils.

A special thanks to Mrs Preen and the children of our school choir for all of their dedication and commitment throughout the year.



Holiday Calendar 2025-2026

Last week the Governing Body approved the Holiday Pattern/Calendar for the Academic Year 2025-2026. Please find a copy of this attached to the email and on the school website. A polite reminder to consult this and the School Office when requesting any holiday leave or planned absence.

- School Closes Thursday 18th December at 1pm
- School Reopens Monday 6th January 2025 at the usual time of 08.45am

Christmas at St Margaret Mary's

As we journey through this special season in school, we have switched our focus to retelling the special, holy feast of Christmas and giving praise through carols and prayer. It has been lovely to celebrate the message of Christmas with all of our children and parents over the last few weeks. I am sure you will agree that the Nativity Performances from EYFS and KS1 and the KS2 Carol Service, have been joyful celebrations of the Christmas Story and season of Advent that we find ourselves in.

A special word of thanks to the staff who have led and supported the Christmas preparations and to all of the staff who work tirelessly across the school throughout the year.

Thank-you to you, for your fantastic support at these events. I hope you found them as memorable as we did and I am sure they will last long in the memories of your families.

Finally, well done to all of our children. I am sure you will agree that the true meaning of Christmas, was celebrated wonderfully, by our pupils.

Yesterday, we held our festive Christmas Dinner. A word of thanks to Chef Denis and our Catering Team who prepared and served a delicious lunch for the whole school. Children and staff had a wonderful time celebrating and eating together.



Friends of St Margaret Mary's Gift

Alongside coordinating the Christmas Discos over the last two weeks, the Friends of St Margaret Mary's have used donations to provide the gift of a book for every child across the school. I do hope that all children and families enjoy this. I am very appreciative and grateful for this and all of the work completed by Mrs Welch and the team in supporting the school and doing a fantastic job of raising funds throughout the year.



Attendance Rewards

Earlier this week we celebrated the fantastic attendance of a number of pupils across the school. We will continue to encourage, support and reward all of our pupils across the school in a range of ways.

We are very aware that illness is often unavoidable and is particularly heightened at this time of year, with the viruses/sickness bugs that are circulating currently an example of this. Nevertheless, we still emphasise the importance of all of our children being in school as often as possible and the impact from this. Please continue to support us with this in the New Year, helping us to ensure that your children continue to grow and achieve the best that they possibly can. Thank-you for your support with this matter.



Greater Manchester Green Summit

Last week we were very privileged to be invited to the Greater Manchester Green Summit held at the Lowry Centre and hosted by Mayor Andy Burnham. This important event was attended by a wide-range of organisations, companies and local authority representatives, linked with sustainability, renewable energies and environmental preservation. Our pupils were invited on stage to speak to over a thousand people, about their Pupil Profit - Eco Refill Project and the implementation of this during the last twelve months. I was very proud to see them present on stage to all of those people, with such confidence and enthusiasm.

The words of praise and commendation that they received from those who were part of the event was amazing, with special messages of praise from Bishop John Arnold and Mayor Andy Burnham. In the process, the children managed to sell over £200 worth of products. Well done to all involved and a special word of thanks to Miss Dobie for coordinating and leading the team this year.



Merry
Christmas
and a happy
New Year



Star of the Week

Well done to this week's 'Stars of the Week'



This half term we are growing to be **intentional** in the way we live and use the resources of the earth and **prophetic** in the way we set examples for others.

Well done to all of our pupils who showed these virtues over the week.



As we come to the end of this last week of term my thanks again for all of your support. I hope you all have a lovely weekend ahead of the Christmas Feast.
Take care and God bless!

Mr. Sutton



On behalf of all of the staff, governors and myself, I wish you, your families and loved ones a very peaceful and a holy Christmas. Enjoy a restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.