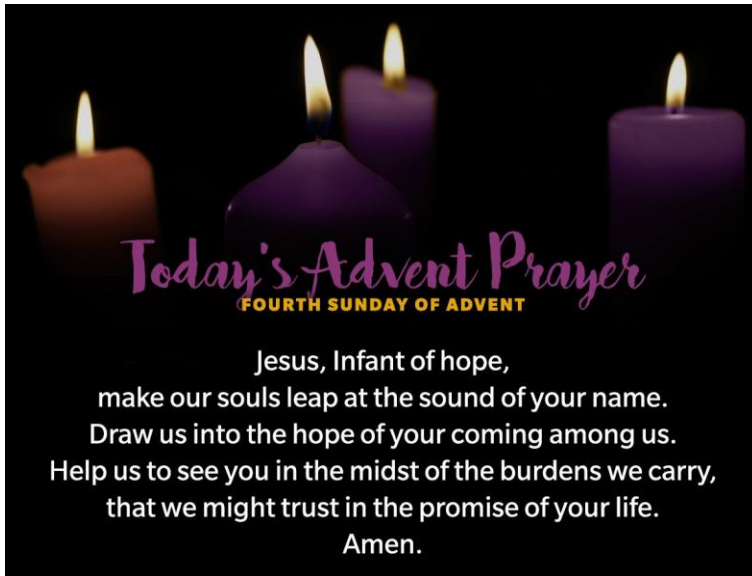




## Reflection



***“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us”***

Mary's faith in Christ never wavered. Mary is truly our model for the obedience in faith. Her humble and trusting response to the angel made possible the Incarnation – the unfolding of the salvation of all mankind.

Fear and doubts must have crossed both Mary and Joseph's minds but their faith and trust in God allowed them to depend on each other and made possible the mission that was given to both of them.

Can we be like Mary and Joseph to embrace all the difficulties, fear and obstacles that come before us? Can we give glory to our Father who loves us and calls us?

Let Mary, Joseph and the Holy Family be our model to live our lives worthy of Christ's divine love for us.

## Merry Christmas

We wish all our families and staff a very merry Christmas. We thank you for all your kind words over this busy but lovely half term and the gifts the staff have received. We hope you get to spend time with family and friends and enjoy some well earned relaxation time. Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy 2023.

## Nativity



Thank you to all the family members who attended the Reception and KS1 nativities.

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were fantastic and did brilliantly at telling the story of Jesus' birth and reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.



### Carol Service

Thank you to all the family members who attended the carol service on Monday. The children all sang beautifully and it was a really special time to come together with our community.

### Advent charity work

Thank you to all who were able to contribute towards the collection for Mary's Meals. We raised £149 towards Father Michael's choice of charity.

Thank also to all those who were able to contribute to the refugee presents and to the Apostleship of the Sea. Your generosity is appreciated.

### Christmas Eve Family Mass - Liturgical choir

The children of the Liturgical Choir are invited to sing before Mass. Arrive no later than 3.30 pm to sing some Christmas Carols and songs before Mass starts at 4pm.

### Choir

The choir went to sing at Bedford Court old people's home this week and quite literally brought tears to the eyes of the old people with their beautiful singing. Bedford Court emailed to say they couldn't believe how wonderful the children were and the joy they had brought to their community.

### Science News from Mrs Georghiou



This week the whole school had lots of fun applying their working scientific skills to make the longest Curly Wurly in 3 minutes! They didn't beat the world record of 4m but a group of children impressively managed to stretch the toffee bar to 1.69m.

Well done to every single child for stepping up to the challenge and being persevering scientists! As the children love science so much, I have attached some fun Christmas themed science activities to do. Have fun! Please send photos if you wish to: [science@stmaryshorsforth.org](mailto:science@stmaryshorsforth.org)

A special request: If anybody has any plastic bottle lids, Mrs Georghiou would like you to collect them and bring them into school for a recycling and reusing project in the summer.

## NEWSLETTER – 16 December 2022

### Water safety

I'm sure you will all be aware of the devastating news from Solihull over the weekend, whereby 4 young children tragically lost their life after entering a frozen lake.

The RLSS have published some resources to reiterate the importance of not going near frozen lakes/ponds etc and what to do in an emergency.

Further information available [Royal Life Saving Society UK issues winter water safety advice | Royal Life Saving Society UK \( RLSS UK \)](#)

Please speak to your children about these important rules to keep them safe.

### Termly roundup of events

It has been a very busy term, as if there is any other term in schools, but we are very proud of all the events that have taken place to enrich the curriculum for all our children. We thank all our families for their contributions to trips and events which allow us to provide such an array of events.



	<b>Educational Visits</b>	<b>Catholic Life</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>In school visitors</b>	<b>Parental Involvement</b>	<b>Clubs</b>
<b>Autumn term</b>	Y6 Residential Y3 Magna Y4 Skelton Grange Y4 recycling Y5 Leeds museum Y2 Yorkshire Sculpture Park Y6 @ library for illustrator session Y1 Horsforth museum	Rosary Day Y6 Saint Feast Day Y3 and Y6 class Mass* Y4 and Y1 class Mass* Family Mass for the start of the year* Family Mass for Advent* Reconciliation for Advent Jesse Tree assemblies Harvest Festival* Reception class saint day SVP food appeal Mini Vinnie Mass Mini Vinnie enrolment* Y5 and Y2 class Mass* CAFOD national assembly KS1 nativity* Reception nativity* Carol service* Advent workshops* Year 1 class saint day Collective worships via Zoom Whole school Remembrance Mass* Class led Jesse Tree collective worship* Apostleship of the Sea	Synergy day Anti-bullying week Macmillan Coffee Morning Black History Month Children in Need Christmas Jumper Day Cross country Football matches Netball matches Able writers Y5 and Y6 Cafod – Harvest Choir singing carols at old people's home Northern Arts dance show Christmas fair Fireworks	Football taster day Kickboxing taster day Pantomime Water safety for KS1 and KS2 Police visit Northern Arts Northern Ballet LUFC Open the Book	Y6 Residential meeting for parents Reception phonics and reading meeting English parent workshops for all classes Parents Evening Reception stay and play Y6 Class assembly KS1 SATs information evening KS2 SATs information evening Phonic screening check parent meeting Y5 class assembly Y3 class assembly Harvest festival E safety parent meeting	Mindful colouring Gardening club STEM club Ipad club Brain training club Chatterbooks club Board games club Mindfulness and yoga Multi sports Mini Vinnies Netball Gymnastics Northern Arts Football Choir Martial Arts



**Don't be late through the Gate!**

Getting your child to school on time really matters. Arriving late is upsetting for the child/young person who is late and disrupting for the class.

Being regularly late really adds up to a loss of learning time:

- 5 Mins late every day = over 3 days of learning lost every year
- 10 mins late every day = almost 7 days of learning lost every year
- 15 mins late every day = over 2 weeks of learning lost every year
- 20 mins late every day = nearly 3 weeks of learning lost every year
- 30 mins late every day = over 4 weeks of learning lost every year

**So, Don't be Late through the Gate!**

Horsforth Children's Services works with all the schools in Horsforth. We believe that by working together we can help improve outcomes for all our children and young people. In 2023, we will be focussing on punctuality with the aim that every child arrives on time, every day! If you have a concern about attendance and/or punctuality or any other worries about your child/young person, please call Horsforth Children's Services on 0113 3367724.



**Punctuality**

The school bell is rung at 8.50 and children should be in the school playground prior to this time to ensure they can line up and enter the school at 8.50am.

We appreciate there may be days when it is unavoidable but we have a number of children routinely arriving at school late, therefore missing learning time but also impacting the safety of the other children and the workload of the office staff.

Please ensure your child is on time to school in January.

**TA role**

We are advertising for a teaching assistant to start from January or as soon as possible. Details can be found on the school website under vacancies. <https://www.stmaryshorsforth.org/vacancies>

**Headteacher Awards**

- Reception – Sienna B & Ernie E
- Year 1 – Oyan M & Noah H
- Year 2 – Hattie E & Lucy H
- Year 3 – Jimena G & Thomas R
- Year 4 – Arthur T & Clodhna K-E
- Year 5 – Millie C & Emily S
- Year 6 – Eve R & Olivia M

**Virtue Awards – Generosity**

- Reception – Ruby T
- Year 1 – Elsie C-B
- Year 2 – Laurel B
- Year 3 – Mia L-M
- Year 4 – Alanna D
- Year 5 – Fabio Z
- Year 6 – Ava Q

## NEWSLETTER – 16 December 2022

### Diary Dates

Please note changes or additions in red.

\*denotes parents welcome

#### January

Tuesday	3		School opens
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>Reception, Year 1, Year 2 dance workshop</b>
Friday	6	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 6*
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>Islam workshops for Year 3 and Year 4</b>
Monday	16	4.00pm	Year 5 and Year 6 maths meeting via Zoom*
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>Year 5 trip</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>Year 4 trip</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Year 3 and Reception class Mass* - change of date</b>
Thursday	26	10.00am	Open the Book
Thursday	26	4.00pm	Year 2 maths meeting via Zoom*
Monday	30	4.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 maths meeting via Zoom*
Tuesday	31		Year 3 Class Saint Day – St John Bosco

#### February

Wednesday	1	9.15am	Year 5 class assembly*
Thursday	2	4.00pm	Year 1 maths meeting via Zoom*
Monday	6	3.30pm	Year 5 residential meeting*
Tuesday	7	2.00pm	Reception stay and play*
Tuesday	7	4.00-6.30pm	Year 4 parents evening*
Thursday	9	9.15am	Reception class assembly*
Thursday	9	4.00-6.30pm	Year 4 parents evening*
Friday	10	9.15am	Year 1 class assembly*
Friday	10		School closes
Wednesday	22	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Mini Vinnies*
Sunday	26	11.00am	Family Mass*
Tuesday	28	1.15pm	Open the Book

#### Parish News

#### SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

Holy Name	6.30pm
St. Mary's	8.15am
Holy Name	9.00am
Assumption	9.45am
St Mary's	11.00am
Holy Name	11.15am

#### THANK YOU

To all who have generously donated to the Parish Advent Appeals this year. The Christmas hampers of treats will be distributed to families by the SVP support Centre in Leeds and the Christmas present will be given out to the local refugee men. A particular thank you to families at St Mary's Primary school for their donations of pre-wrapped toys for refugee children. Your generosity means we have been able to distribute to PAFRAS, Solace, Meeting Point and an NCT group supporting pregnant refugee women and local Ukrainian families.

## NEWSLETTER – 16 December 2022

### APPEAL FROM OLK FRIENDS OF MIGRANTS

There are 120 men seeking Asylum housed in a local hotel some of them are Christian. They arrive with limited personal belongings. We are appealing for spare Bibles and rosary beads. Some of the men are from French speaking African countries so if anyone has a bible written in French that would be greatly appreciated. A box will be left at the back of each church. Thank you in anticipation. Any queries please contact Philomena on 07713445388

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Everyone is welcome to donate towards the Christmas flowers in any of our churches. Offerings can be placed in the collection baskets or poinsettias, plants/flowers can be left in all 3 churches from Monday 19th Dec

### CHRISTMAS MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

All Masses are offered for the Celebrants intentions

#### Christmas Eve (Saturday)

(Fulfilling the Christmas obligation)

4.00pm St. Mary's

6.00pm Assumption Carols from 5.30pm

6.00pm Holy Name Carols from 5.30pm

10.30pm Holy Name

#### Christmas Day (Sunday)

10.00am Holy Name Carols from 9.30am

10.00am St. Mary's