

Christmas Information 2025



Head Teacher Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Christmas is such a special time of the year, particularly for children. In St Mary's we try and make this an extra special time for our pupils. As in previous years we have a number of activities planned in the run up to Christmas.

This Newsletter is being sent with information on the key events during Advent in the lead up to Christmas.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank all the children and their families who supported the school/parish of St Mary's with their attendance at Mass last Sunday as we celebrated Catholic Education Week. I was so proud to see so many children from the school in attendance at this Mass.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mr F. McIntyre (Head Teacher)



Patronal Feast Day

We will be celebrating the school patronal feast day, the Immaculate Conception, on Monday 8th December 2025.

The whole school will attend Mass at 10 am in St Mary's Church and you are invited to attend. Following the Mass I would like to invite you also to come to the school for a light refreshment before having the opportunity to visit your child in their classroom. We appreciate sometimes it is challenging to get time off work, therefore if this is an issue we extend the invitations to grandparents/relations of our pupils to attend.

We look forward to welcoming you on this special day.



Travelling Crib

In St Mary's we always try to maintain a focus on the real meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus. We continue to remind the children of this in all that we do at this busy time of the

year. During advent, as we prepare for Christmas the children will focus on prayer and reflection in class RE lessons and our weekly assemblies.

This year we will once again support the P1 and P2 pupils to focus on the true meaning of Christmas with the 'The Travelling Crib.' The following message from Bishop Toal sets the context for this initiative:

Dear children and families,

To help you prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Messiah, I am delighted to invite you to take part in a special project called The Travelling Crib.

This will help us to remember the journey Joseph and Mary made to Bethlehem, and gives time to pause as a family to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas. I would like to invite you to place a crib scene in your home during the Advent season as a sign of our faith in Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

I trust that taking a short time to pray together this Advent will bring you and your family many graces and blessings.

+ Bishop Joseph Toal

Each child in the class will bring home a nativity scene, a book to read on the nativity and an information leaflet. The Travelling Crib **must be returned to school the next day** to allow all children to have the opportunity to take part in this project.

Christmas Performances - The Fleece Force

There will be 2 Christmas performances of The Fleece Force

Tuesday 9th December:

Doors will open at 6.20pm for both children and adults. There will be no supervision for children or access to the school before that time. Information will be given on the night regarding where you can pick up your child from at the end of the performance. No adults are allowed into the corridors until all children are ready to be dismissed.

Thursday 11th December:

Doors will open at 12.55pm. We will start lunches earlier than usual to enable the children to get changed into their costumes .

I ask, if possible, that all children remain in school for lunch on this day.

Please note that there will be no admission to either show without a ticket.



Christmas Parties

Friday 12th December P1, P2 & P3

Monday 15th December P4 & P5

Tuesday 16th December P6 & P7

The children can bring their party clothes to school and get changed or they can go home for lunch and get changed at home. Children going home to get changed for their party will be brought into the yard at **12 o'clock** to be collected by an adult. All adults should remain in the yard to collect their child.

The children should return to school for 1pm.



Christmas Lunch

You have received information about the Christmas lunch which will take place on **Wednesday 17th December**. If you have not already done so, please return the reply slip detailing your child's choice of menu by 3rd December to allow our catering team to organise this special occasion. **If children wish, they can wear a Christmas jumper on this day.**



Nativity Service

The children will participate in a nativity service in St Mary's church on the last day, **Thursday 18th December**. Can I encourage all children to attend school on this day. The service is for the children only and we will conclude our preparation for the Christmas holidays by reflecting on the story of the nativity.

End of Term

The school will close at 2.30pm on Thursday 18th December.

The school buses will pick up from the school at 2.30pm at this time.



Pupil Return

The children will return to school on **Monday 5th January 2026**, the school re-opens at the usual time.

