



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*End of term letter*

*Advent*

*December 2025*

Dear Parents, Children and Carers,

Christmas will soon be upon us and it will be the end of another busy, but hugely successful term. It is important as the break approaches that we take time to reflect upon and celebrate the fantastic achievements of our children at St Mary's. We hope you and our pupils have enjoyed the various festive activities that are part of our annual school calendar.



As we have journeyed together through Advent, we have had a number of events, all of which, have been stunning and the quality of experiences for the children has been second to none! Our Advent Reflection in the Cathedral, with our Trust Northampton Schools took place on Wednesday 3rd of December. Once again this was an opportunity for everyone to get together as a family of Catholic schools and to remind ourselves about the 'real' Christmas message, putting to one side, all the other things that we busy ourselves with over the festive season. If you had the fortune to be there, we hope you enjoyed the evening. I am sure you will agree that the pupils were outstanding and they were a real credit to the school.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the fantastic nativities, "A miracle in town" and 'Silent Night'. The children really shone, sharing the message of Christmas. For our Reception children the travelling crib has also been welcomed into many of your homes. Thank you for sharing the photos with us.

Your generous support with the Caritas Christmas Appeal, means that we can support the members of our community in need of a little extra bit of kindness at Christmas time. Our Year 4 children have again visited Nazareth House Care Home, spreading the St Mary's peace and goodwill to others. So many special memories we have made over this Advent period and throughout, service for others has really shone through.

## **Thank you**

Thank you also to our dedicated team of Governors who have given so generously of their time this term, to advise, challenge and support the school moving forward. Thank you also

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*"With Christ as our guide, we let our light shine."*

to the PTA who worked tremendously hard to ensure the Christmas Fayre and disco were such a success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their commitment, drive and contributions this term. I am privileged to have such a wonderful team here.

### Staffing update

At the end of term, we say thank you to Miss Young who has been part of the year 1 teaching team this term; she has been a valued member of our school staff, and we are truly grateful for all her hard work and commitment. In January we welcome **Mrs Buck who will be joining the staff here at St Mary's as an Assistant headteacher.** Mrs Buck will also be teaching alongside Mrs O'Callaghan in the year one class.

*I would like to impress the importance of the following things for the new term in January.*

**School attendance, absence and the Law:** Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Talking to your child and their teachers could help solve any difficulties you may have in getting your child to go to school and there are other forms of support available if you still have problems. The law requires parents to make sure their children receive full-time education suitable to their needs. Regarding taking holidays during term time; Government legislation now states that requests for holiday leave during term time will not be authorised by the headteacher and could also be subject to a fine. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to not take family holidays during term time and attend school every day. It makes a massive difference to your child's progress.

### Uniform Check

Thank you to all the children who always wear the correct uniform. Here are just a few reminders about our Uniform policy – it is non-negotiable, so please ensure that in January your children wear the following:

Boys' Winter Uniform	Girls' Winter Uniform
<b>Named</b> white shirt and school tie <b>Named</b> jumper with school logo Grey or white socks, grey trousers Black shoes <b>(not trainers or boots)</b>	<b>Named</b> white Shirt and school tie <b>Named</b> jumper with school logo <b>Named</b> grey skirt, pinafore or trousers (not fashion trousers see note below) White socks, grey tights, black shoes ( <b>not boots</b> )
Trousers Plain tailored to the ankle with no additional decorations. No tight- fitting trousers or legging type trousers.	

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As parents, you have chosen to send your child to a Catholic school because faith is important. I hope you have found the last month good preparation for Christmas and good reason as to why you chose to send your child to a school with faith. We could not do what we do without the support of our Parishes. On behalf of us all – I wish Father Benny and Fr Jithu and all in the Parish of St Patrick's and the Cathedral a very happy Christmas and every good wish for 2025. For the latest information re. Christmas Masses please see their website via <https://stpatrickduston.org.uk/> and <https://northamptoncathedral.org/times/>

### This week's Highlights...

#### Key Stage 2 Production – 'A Silent Night'



#### Christmas Lunch



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Christmas Liturgy- 'We are handmade to shine!'



We appreciate the support of parents and the hard work and dedication of your children, therefore we ask that all members of the community take the opportunity to recharge over the Christmas break and spend some quality time with friends and family. School will reopen on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026** .

May I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours Sincerely

**Mrs K. Yuen**

Executive Headteacher

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