



### Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to you all for your continued support to our school during 2023, a year where we have ended this term preparing for Christmas through Advent with our Christmas Plays, Grandparent's afternoon and Advent Mass. A year with our very successful Ofsted and Catholic Inspection Service Section 48 Inspections which gave recognition to the dedication of our staff, support of our parents and super work of our children. I want to say a big thank you to you all, it is a privilege to be the Headteacher of such a great school community and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your families and a healthy 2024.



### Miss Liz Hodgson

Many of you will be aware that Miss Hodgson has not been with us for most of this year. I am now able to tell you all that sadly Miss Hodgson has decided to resign from her teaching position at St Mary's and will not be returning. I want to take this opportunity to thank Liz for her years working at St Mary's as our EYFS class teacher. Many of you will have got to know her well as your children took their first steps in school life and learning journey in her care. I know you will join me in wishing Liz all the very best in all she chooses to do and the next steps she herself takes on her journey. Mrs Cross and Mrs Morrison will permanently continue to teach in St Hilda's along with Mrs Robinson as Nursery Nurse. Mrs Morrison will also continue to teach in St Francis class alongside Mrs Goodwin.

### Christmas Performances 2023

A big thank you to you all for attending our Christmas performances this year, our children were as always stars of the show. Thank you to EYFS and Key Stage 1 for presenting Whoopsa Daisy Angel, sharing the nativity and thank you to Key Stage 2 for performing Cinderella Rockafella. Every year our talent on the stage gets better, our children are fantastic. Thank you for your generous donations supporting the chosen charities for 2023.



### Christmas Lunch, Party Afternoon & wear a Christmas Jumper

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December in school, we will have our lunch all together in the big hall. A big thank you to Mrs Collins for cooking our dinner and to all the staff who will help to prepare the hall, serve the dinner, what a team! Party activities will take place in the afternoon, children can wear their Christmas jumpers, we will have a non-uniform day.

### Advent Afternoon

From our Advent Afternoon on 30<sup>th</sup> November, we have journeyed together through the first two weeks of Advent. We have lit the candles on our Advent Wreaths, shared the Nativity Sacks and the Advent Bags with liturgies for each week. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Christmas.



### Advent Tea and Chat in School.

Last week our parish friends visited school for tea and chat after morning Mass. The Junior Chaplains greeted, helped with refreshments and chatted to our visitors about school. Later they were treated to a preview from the children's nativity play and the Elephant Dance from EYFS welcome assembly. It was a lovely morning.

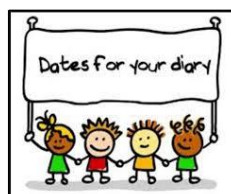


### Young Voices Choir

The school choir will attend The Young Voices Concert at Sheffield Arena on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the very first day back. Choir please remember your packed lunch, packed tea, your T shirts and your voices.



21/12/23 Advent Mass in Church 10.00am  
22/12/23 School Closes for Christmas  
08/01/24 School reopens to children  
09/02/24 Close for Half Term



Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.



Executive Headteacher

