

Christmas 2018

Growing in Faith

Christmas Mass Times

St Thomas of Canterbury
Parish, Billingham

Christmas Eve - Holy Rosary 5.00 pm

St John's 7.00 pm

Christmas Day - St. Joseph's 10.00 am

"The birth of Jesus brings us the Good News that we are loved immensely by God."

Pope Francis

Please also keep in your prayers those people near and far who are missing loved ones this Christmas or are suffering in any way.

Important Dates for your Diary

- Return to school: Monday 7th January 2019 at 8.50am
- Half Term 18th to 22nd February 2019
- KS1 SATs - May 2019
- KS2 SATs - 13th May–16th May 2019
- Phonics Screening check (Y1) - week beginning Monday 10th June, 2019
- The term dates and holidays for 2019–2020 are available on the school website

Wishing you a Holy and Peaceful Christmas



As the term draws to a close, it gives me great pleasure to reflect on the busy, vibrant and successful weeks we have had. The early days of September seem only like yesterday but we know so much has happened in the life of our school. Our children excelled themselves once again this year at our Christmas Nativities and Carol Service. Our school values shone through each and every performance—from the gentle care captured during "Mary's Knitting" to the uplifting joy and feel-good factor in "Prickly Hay" and the spiritual reflection of the Carol Service—the children said it all! Thank you to each and every one of them. My grateful thanks too for being such supportive and generous families—we couldn't do what we do without your support. Our dedicated staff are also simply amazing and really do give their absolute best for our children—thank you!

The end of this term sees us say goodbye to Mr Plunkett, our Caretaker. Mr Plunkett is moving on to a full time Caretaking role—we thank him for his work at St Paul's and wish him well. We are delighted to welcome Mr Philip Hurren who will become our new school caretaker in January.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our Governors, to Fr Butters, and to the Friends of St. Paul's for their unstinting dedication to our school. Their contribution is invaluable and very much appreciated.

I hope that you enjoy a wonderful Christmas and that the love, peace and joy of the Christmas season is shared by you and your families, now and throughout the coming year.

With very best wishes,
Sheena Sinclair.

Our Mini Vinnies have been 'turning concern into action' once again this term.

They have worked with Ms Ronan to produce beautiful Christmas cards for sick and house bound parishioners. The cards have been collected by the SVP and will be circulated before Christmas. We are sure they will bring much happiness to others.

Thank you also for your generous donations to the Billingham Foodbank. We have our final collection for this year on the last day of term but will be accepting donations again in the new year.



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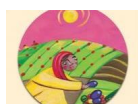


Our Prayer Leaders

There are two children from each class who have been chosen to help lead prayer in our school. They also support the Catholic Life of the school and during December have promoted the CAFOD World Gifts Appeal. Thank you to our families for your generous donations of £71. As a school we have been able to purchase 'The net that protects,' a 'Happy Queen Bee,' a 'Vegetable Garden,' some 'Wonderful Worms,' 'Fabulous Football' and the gift to 'Teach someone to Read' as well as some 'Chirpy Chicks'. These gifts will have a real and lasting difference to families living in developing countries.



CAFOD
Just one world



Student Council

As always, our student council representatives ensure that initiatives in school are well led. This term they requested a project that involved supporting others outside of our school. They seized the opportunity to support the Parish Seafarers Appeal and encouraged others to donate items that could provide for seafarers. The seafarers the gifts speak selves. A total of 108 shoe-box gifts were donated by the Thomas of St Canterbury. Thank you.



After-School Clubs

Our after-school clubs begin when we return to school on Monday 7th January. Please ensure that you pay for the clubs you wish your child to attend using your Parentpay account. Any existing balances for this term should be settled before commencing the new terms' clubs. Many thanks.

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| KS1 Multi Sports | - | Monday 3.15—4.15 |
| Y3 & Y4 Football | - | Monday 3.15—4.15 |
| Dance | - | Tuesday 3.15—4.15 |
| Netball | - | Tuesday 3.15—4.15 |
| Lingotots (EYFS/KS1) | - | Tuesday 3.15—4.15 |
| Year 5 & 6 Football | - | Thursday 3.15—4.15 |
| Ks2 Multi Sports | - | Friday 3.15—4.15 |

Looking Forward....

There are already dates on the school website for the new year. Please continue to use it to keep up-to-date with ongoing news and events. You can also follow us on Twitter and don't forget to read our sports' blogs and newsletters.

<http://www.stpaulsrc.org.uk/>
<https://twitter.com/StPaulsRCPriMar>

