9th January 2018

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| st | Archdiocese of Birmingham  **ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  **Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN**  **Telephone: 0121– 464 2141 Fax: 0121–464 8312**  **Email:** [**enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk**](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)  **www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk**  *Headteacher: Miss H.M. Cusack M.Ed.* |  |

Dear Parent,

Welcome to 2018! Many thanks for your huge generosity at the end of last year.

**Advent Collection** – we have been able to forward a cheque to the value of £900 to ‘Trusted Homes’ – the Birmingham charity that supports the destitute and homeless.

**School Mass – New Spring Term – Friday 12th January 9:30am**

Please join us for our opening mass of the year where will offer this year with all its joys, sorrows, fears/anxieties, changes, dreams etc before the Lord for His merciful blessings. All welcome.

**New Year – New Me?**

As we begin again, we all aim to develop or change things about ourselves and our lives. This year, at school, we aim to support the children (and adults) in becoming more closely aligned to their faith and to the beautiful opportunities it presents to us in our lives. To that end, we have invited the children to visit the church before, during and at the end of the day. St Mary’s is open between 7:00am and 4:00pm each weekday. A 5-minute pop-in during this time should not be too much to ask, should it? Please, even if only once per week, make an effort to visit where the Lord waits for you. Pray for peace in our land and in our world.

**A Reflection for a New Year**

**Another year I enter  
Its history unknown;  
Oh, how my feet would tremble  
To tread its paths alone!  
But I have heard a whisper,  
I know I shall be blest;  
"My presence shall go with thee,  
And I will give thee rest."**

**New Babies on their way!**

We have two new babies due this school year. Mrs Davis will begin her maternity leave at the end of this half term and hopes to return around this time next year. Miss Nicholson begins her maternity leave at Easter and hopes to return in the next academic year. We wish both of our ‘mums to be’ all our best for a safe and happy confinement.

**Sickness, colds and flu!**

Please do not send children into school who have been sick and vomiting. You will be aware that the seasonal viruses are rampant with no sign of abatement – in fact, if news reports are to be believed we have not yet hit the worst of things. Please support the school community by doing your bit to protect others. Thank you.

**Socks Required**

We still need replacement socks for our youngest children who may need a change of clothing during the school day. If you have any spares that are no longer required, we will gladly take them off your hands. Many thanks.

**Swimming Helpers**

We would be delighted for any support to help with transporting our Y2 children to swimming each Tuesday morning. It requires you to walk across to Harborne Baths and to wait while the children swim and then to walk back to school. If we have sufficient volunteers, we can set a rota of once per month or even once per half term. As an adult you will need to monitor the children’s safety so it is not really suitable for parents who need to bring a pre-school child with them. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



H M Cusack

Headteacher