

St. Martin's Catholic Primary School

December 2020 Newsletter

We have now finally arrived at the last month of 2020 and what a strange year it has been. Thanks to everyone for all of your support throughout this very difficult year. There are still a few events happening during these last few weeks please get as involved as you can.

Christmas Raffle



Due to the fact that we cannot hold a Christmas Fair this year we have decided to have a Christmas Raffle to raise funds for the Friends of St Martin's. We have a few prizes including two Hampers, one with Christmas Goodies and one with Christmas Chocolates and sweets; a Perfume Gift set and a few beautiful new teddies.

Tickets can only be bought through the Gateway App and will cost £1 per ticket, £5 for 6 tickets. Tickets can be bought from Thursday 3rd December until Wednesday 16th December. We will print off all the tickets then and draw the Raffle with the children on Thursday 17th December. We will inform the winners so they can be collected.

Christmas Dinner

By now you should have received a letter about the Christmas Dinner. It will be held on Thursday 10th December. The children will be doing PE that day so will all be coming into school in their PE kits and this will be fine for Christmas Dinner this year. The Kitchen staff will once again be decorating the tables and ensuring that the children have a great time.



Christmas Parties

This year we will be holding the Christmas Parties on Wednesday 16th December and each



Class/Bubble will have their own in their own classroom. The Friends are going to pay for all the party food and so this year we will not be asking for any Christmas Activity money. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for all of their great work and generosity. All the children can come in all day dressed in their party clothes. I am certain that they will all have a great time despite the difficulties this year.

Welcome to Mrs Ming

Hopefully many of you have had a chance to meet Mrs Ming over the course of this half term. If not you will love her when you meet her in 2021. I know she is going to be fantastic. Good luck and God bless you Mrs Ming.

WELCOME



My retirement

Well it has finally come along and it is my chance to retire and to spend a bit more time on the golf course and with my family and friends. I have been incredibly blessed to have worked with so many wonderful staff, children, parents, priests and such a fantastic community throughout my time here at St Martin's. It has been an incredible privilege and you will all hold a very close place in my heart. Can you believe I once looked that young?!

Special memories

It would be impossible to list all the people who have made such a massive impact over my time here at St Martin's but there are a few that I would like to remember if you will bear with me.

Fondly remembered

There are a few people who are no longer around to be able to say a proper goodbye to, who have played a big part in St Martin's over the 21 years I have been here including: Jo Barr, Joan Fraser, Fr Mike, Colin Smith, Karen Hughes, Martin Valdez and Rob Hulson. Each of these still have a special place in my heart and many others too.



Incredible Management Team



I cannot go without saying a very special thanks to the incredible management team that I have had alongside me throughout my time including: Mrs Owen, Mrs Walton MBE and currently Mrs Parker and Mrs Carney. If I tried to say sorry for all the upsets I have given them in trying to keep me on a short leash I don't think I will live long enough! I know for sure without each of them St Martin's could not have been the great success and family it is.

Wonderful welcoming team

The support that I have had in the Office too throughout the years from Mrs Chris Shingler, Mrs Karen Reese, Mrs Helen Bailey and currently from Mrs Trace Evison has also been absolutely first class. They have without doubt always been wonderfully welcoming for our school and have had to put up with some very strange and poor singing coming from my room. Your ears can all now have a rest.



Great Parish Priests

I have also been very blessed to have worked alongside a number of Parish Priests over the past 21 years including Fr Ravi, Fr George, Fr Mike, Fr Colin, Fr Bernard, Fr Lucas and Fr Jonathan. Each of these have played a very special part in developing the spirituality of our community. They have also been helped by that incredible lady, our very own Sr Teresa of Runcorn. Thank you each and every one of you.



Governing Body

Throughout my time here I have also been incredibly fortunate to serve alongside so many great Governors, I cannot list them all but would like to say a special thanks to the Chairs over my time including Fr Bernard, Adrian Reese and Dave Littlewood. Each of these, together with Sandra Cassidy who alongside Mrs Walton was on the appointment committee that made you suffer with me! All of the governors have carried out excellent work in the background and have supported me throughout my time.

Tiny Steps

One of the first things that was established not long after I started was Tiny Steps. It was set up with the help of Mrs Karen Reese, who is still involved with our excellent Pre School. Our very first appointment in January 2000 was Alison Halpin who is now the Manager of Tiny Steps and is ensuring that it is still such a wonderful place for children to prepare for school.



Redesign of the school

As a school we have been very fortunate that it was first guided by Mr Phil Barr who had the original building and appointed many of the great staff who are still here and laid all the



foundations for this great school. When it became necessary to redesign the school from the original which was 'open plan' to the current classrooms and the extension of Years

5 and 6 we were very grateful for the parents and the Diocese who were very generous in helping to pay for all the additional work, well over a third of £1 million!

Children's playgrounds

Over the past 21 years we have been able to develop the children's playgrounds and have been able to install the trail and the tyres in the Juniors playground. We have also added the climbing frames on both playgrounds and developed the outdoor area for YR. The playground has also been added to by the development of Karen's Path around the field and some of you may well have been involved in all the tree planting around the field. The grounds are now great places for the children to enjoy.



Breakfast and After School Club

Many thanks also to Karen Smith, Laura Ellis and all the teams who have made our Breakfast Club and After School Clubs so successful over so many years. The support that they have given has been absolutely wonderful and the impact for parents and children has been fantastic.



After School Club

Incredible children, staff, parents and community

The biggest thanks that I must give is to all the incredible children, staff, parents and all the community that I have been so fortunate to be able to serve throughout the past 21 years. Everyone will always hold a very special place in my heart and I will always keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Always remember how special each and every one of you are. You make the world a better place by being a part of it. Go out and show the world how much you love God by the way you treat everyone you meet. God bless you all.



Christmas holiday - early closing

Please note we break up for Christmas on Friday 18th December early at 2.30pm. Please note that the After School Club will not be available on this afternoon. The children return to school on Tuesday 7th January at your usual times. Have a good holiday.

Diary Dates

Thursday 10 th December	12 noon	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 16 th December	All afternoon	Class Christmas parties
Friday 18 th December	2.30pm	Early closing Christmas holidays
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Tuesday 5 th January	8.45am	Spring term starts

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a very special New Year of 2021.

*Many thanks for your continued help and support. Please do not forget that if you have any problems, worries or ideas to contact me.*

God bless us all,  
Yours sincerely,

Mr P D Hallman  
Headteacher

Merry Christmas

