



# St Maria Goretti Newsletter



18th December 2015

Autumn 8



Dear Parents and carers .

Once again, our children have excelled themselves through their Christmas nativity performances, which were very well supported and attended by our parishioners. The singing was beautiful and the children spoke so clearly and confidently. The English Speaking Board programme , combined with our music and drama activities are clearly making a difference. I was disappointed that I could not share in the celebration of mass this week, due to illness. The staff said how special it felt and how well the children contributed.

On behalf of our whole school community, I wish to thank all the staff for their hard work and unwavering love, care and support for our pupils; they are our greatest resource.

We had a very important visit from senior advisors from the Department for education in London, who wanted to talk to us about our successful work with disadvantaged pupils. The visitors said they felt '*inspired and humbled*' by what they described as '*people going way over and beyond the school gates to help children and families.*' It was a privilege to hear their comments and learn that they will be using our school as a national case study. I have been invited to work with them on government (national) policy.

The joy and happiness we have shared in school with the children over the past two weeks prompts us to be thankful for responding to God's calling to teach. Last week I sat with some of our pupils and shared a very tasty Christmas meal, prepared by our kitchen staff. One of the children asked the group, '*if you could have one wish, what would it be?*' Excited chatter soon changed following the thoughtful, touching comment of one child who simply said, '*I would wish for money,*' when asked what she would buy, she simply replied, '*nothing... I would share it out to give money to poor people and find a cure for cancer.*' Moments such as these make us realise that we are in a Catholic school.

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2015, the staff are already preparing for the new year ahead. Habitually, we talk to the children about making a new start... a new beginning. It is never too late for us to make changes, however small, to improve ourselves and make things better for other people. As Pope Francis states in one of his many inspirational homilies,

**"Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start."**

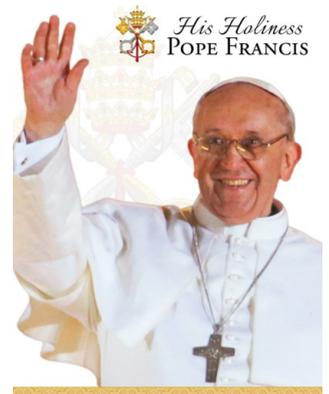
His words are a fitting reminder for us in considering our new year resolutions.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs M Yates

Executive Headteacher

ST MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC ACADEMY PART OF THE ALL SAINTS  
CATHOLIC COLLEGIATE.





**BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 6 WHO ARE LAST WEEK'S WEEKLY ATTENDANCE WINNERS WITH 98.6% - WOW!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 3 BEST ATTENDANCE FROM 9TH SEPT 2015 TO 11TH DECEMBER WITH 98.8%**

**THE OVERALL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FIGURE IS 97.4%**



**It is essential that you ensure your child gets to school on time.**



**The school doors open at 8.45 and close at 8.55**

**Registration is taken at 8.55am prompt**

**School finishes each day at 3.15pm**



**Dates for your Diary**



Parents Evening—Tuesday 19th January 2016 - 5pm to 8pm  
and Thursday 21st January 2016 - 4pm to 6pm

Confirmation of Year 5 and 6 pupils who are baptised Catholic and have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion :25th February at 7pm.

RE watch me learn—Tuesday 9th February 2016

Holy Communion for pupils in Year 3 and above who are baptised Catholic : 22nd May at 10am

If you and your children are not baptised Catholic and are interested in becoming a Catholic, Please speak with Mrs Long.



Wednesday 30th December at 2pm in the Village hall

Tickets available from Joyce Brough

Residents £3 None Residents £4

Children £2

Come along and enjoy.



We are now running My Baby Time in school 9:45—10:45

Thursdays

£3.00 per family



St Maria Goretti are launching an app that will run on iPhone, Android, Windows8 and Windows phones. This will allow us to keep parents informed and up to date with everything that is going on at school.

This app is also able to translate into other languages.

This app is free to download. Please download it now! You can scan the QR code to download this instantly or visit [jsa4.me/stmariagoretti](http://jsa4.me/stmariagoretti) from

your phone's browser

