



newsletter

2017/18 Issue 6 – 22nd November 2017

Reminder

School/Parish Mass – Sunday 26th November 2018

Feast of Christ The King

This term's School/Parish Mass will be held this Sunday – Feast of Christ The King. This will be held at 11.00 a.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Guildhall Street.



Advent – a time for giving

We are fast approaching Advent – and at school we have begun to think about preparing to celebrate Christmas together.

As well as raising money, our very own Sunshine Team have decided to run the 'Back-to-front' Advent Calendar once again. Please see the separate letter to follow from Mrs Jukes and our Sunshine Team.

Advent Breakfast

Our Advent breakfast will be held on **Wednesday 6th December** from 8:00 a.m. As ever, this will be great value for money, good fun and a brilliant way to start the day.

We will be serving the usual breakfast (cereals, sausages, beans, toast and a drink – milk,

tea or coffee) and the event is open to all the children and their parents (grandparents, uncles, aunts etc.!).

The cost will be £3 per person, and all the money raised will go to the Folkestone Churches Winter Shelter. Please return the form overleaf as soon as possible to book your breakfast.



Christmas jumpers

As part of our fundraising we are holding a Christmas Jumper day on 8th December – for a donation of £1 for the homeless the children (and the adults!) can wear their favourite Christmas woolly to school.

Carols for the homeless

On **Wednesday 13th December** our Hobbits, Dragons and Griffins are singing carols outside the Radnor Park Café as an after school event to raise money for the homeless – come and support them! Children should be collected from school at 3.15 p.m. as usual and then walked along to the café by their parents to begin at 3.45 p.m.

Christmas Fair

Don't forget to come along and support the Parents' Association Christmas Fair on **Friday 8th December after school**. As usual, there will be plenty of Christmas spirit around, with raffle prizes,

pocket-money toys and competitions for the children, and delicious cakes!

School Photographs

Please be aware that all children will be having their school photograph taken on Friday 24th November. The children should all come to school in full uniform in readiness for these photos. This year we are using Julie Vane Photography – we believe these photographs are extremely professional and very reasonably priced.

Attendance Table

At Stella Maris, our attendance target is to be above 96%. The league table below shows how the children are currently fairing.

Congratulations to the Dragons, who at the time of printing the newsletter, remain the leaders on the table!

Imps	96.79%	Pixies	97.26%
Elves	97.60%	Hobbits	96.71%
Dragons	97.72%	Griffins	94.91%
Unicorns	96.46%	Overall	96.79%

Ourschoolsapp

Well done to the 64% of our parents that have downloaded Ourschoolsapp. The feedback so far has been superb and parents feel this is an excellent way of receiving updates and reminders.

Going forward, we would like our newsletters to be around celebrating success and events and our app to share important diary dates and reminders. This is only going to be possible when we

are confident that key messages will reach all homes. If you have not already done so, PLEASE, PLEASE download our app and start receiving updates today. If you are having difficulties with this – please see Mrs Tidd in the school office.

Admissions for September 2018

This is the time of year when parents of children who will be five during the next academic year need to sort out school places.

There is a county-wide **Common Application Form** for primary schools and, for faith schools like Stella Maris, parents are also required to complete a Supplementary Form.

The Common Application Forms, together with an explanatory booklet, are now available **online**, at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. If an online application is difficult for you, a paper form is available from the school office. Parents have until **Monday 15th January 2018** to return the form to KCC or apply online and to send the Supplementary Form to school.

If you know of anyone interested in applying for a place in Reception next September, please make sure they contact the school as soon as possible to check that all the correct forms have been completed.

First Communion

First Communion next summer will be on **Sunday 20th May**.

Registration forms for children in Hobbits class will be sent home by the end of the week, and instruction classes will be held on Wednesdays after school, **starting on Wednesday 3rd January**.

If your child is older than Year 3 and you would like them to make their First Communion next year, you can obtain a registration form from the school office.

Please remember that only baptised Catholics can receive Communion. If your child is not a Catholic, but you are interested in taking this step, please contact Father Stephen at Church.

Registration forms should be returned to the school by the end of the term.

Christmas lunch

The children's **Christmas lunch** will be on **Wednesday 13th December**. Don't forget that any of the children can have a school lunch on that day, even if they usually have a packed lunch, but we need to know in advance. Please complete the form below to book a school lunch for your child and return it to school, with the payment (unless your child is in Imps, Pixies or Elves classes – their lunch is free!), by **Monday 4th December**. If your

child usually has a school meal there is no need to fill in the slip.

NSPCC

Look out for letters in next week's book bags regarding the NSPCC's Speak Out. Stay Safe. Programme – the NSPCC (the UK's leading children's charity) will be in school on Wednesday 6th December to deliver their information.

Christmas Dates

Monday 27 th November	Stella Maris is an Art School exhibition – 6.00 p.m.
Wednesday 6 th December	Advent Breakfast at 8 a.m.
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jumper day
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fair after school
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 13 th December	Hobbits, Dragons and Griffins singing carols outside the Radnor Park Café after school
Friday 15 th December	Christmas party/outing
Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th December	Infant Christmas production at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday 19 th December	Y6 Unicorns Christmas production at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday 20th December	Christingle Service at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday 20th December	Break up for Christmas (2:30 p.m.)
Wednesday 3 rd January	Return to school

Advent Breakfast

Please send tickets for breakfast on **Wednesday 6th December**. I enclose

Children's names: _____ Children's classes _____

Christmas lunch

My child does not normally have a school meal but I would like him/her to have a Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 13th December**. I enclose £2.30/my child is entitled to a free infant meal (*delete as applicable*).

Child's name: Class:

Date: Signed: