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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL</b><br/><b>NEWSLETTER NO. 3 – JANUARY 2008</b></p> |
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**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

Christmas seems a long time ago now, but I hope that you all had a happy and peaceful one and that the year has started well for you.

The building of the new classrooms is progressing well and work has started on the entrance hall and office area. The main entrance is out of use and access to the temporary office (the old staffroom) is via the green access gate. Because of the increased amount of works vehicles on the premises it is even more important than ever that neither children (nor adults) walk up the drive instead of using the path. I have noticed children running up the middle of the driveway at the end of the school day and this is extremely dangerous – please speak to your children, reiterating what I have said in assembly and supervise them closely when leaving the school. Please also do not drive into school to collect children unless a special arrangement has been made with the office due to particular circumstances. We thank you for your patience and look forward to all of the works being finished.

**School Web Site**

We are very excited that the school web site is now up and running and the address is [www.stmarysdeal.co.uk](http://www.stmarysdeal.co.uk). This is a new venture for us so we would welcome any feedback from you as to how it can grow and develop. We would like to post regular newsletters on the site and keep it updated with school events. With this in mind, would you be kind enough to complete the pro forma at the end of this letter to indicate whether or not you have access to the internet and whether you would be able to check the website regularly. We are looking at alternative ways of passing on information to you to reduce the amount of printed copies sent home.

You will notice that there is a hyperlink to the school's E-Profile which replaces the annual governing body report which used to be sent home in the autumn term. The E-profile will give you an overview of the academic year 2006-2007 and is a document which will be updated each year.

**Church/School Links**

Since the retirement of Father Michael from St. John's Church, Father Anand has been taking charge of Parish matters. He is very keen to build a strong relationship with the school and would like to re-introduce Class Liturgies on a Friday afternoon at 2.15 pm to allow parents/guardians the opportunity to join their child's class. You will find a date sheet attached to this letter giving the details of when your child's class is involved. The focus from Ash Wednesday on 6<sup>th</sup> February until Easter, is on the Stations of the Cross and Reconciliation. We hope that, time permitting, you will be able to come along to St. John's and participate in our preparation for Easter.

Father is also very keen to ensure that the sacramental programmes take place for all those who want them. Please let us know (or contact Father Anand direct) if you would like information about First Holy Communion, Baptism or Confirmation. I will be supporting the First Holy Communion programme for St. John's and St. Andrew's (Sandwich) parishes this year and will be giving instruction to the children who are due to make their First Communion this summer. The parents/guardians of any child who is in Year 3 upwards who is a baptised Catholic and would like to participate in this programme should contact me. The programme will begin after Easter and will be on Monday

afternoons at 3.30 pm in school. The children in St. John's Parish will make their First Communion at the 11 am mass on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June and the children in St. Andrew's Parish will make theirs at the 9 am mass on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Father has also asked me to say that he would be delighted to see any parents/guardians of children who have not yet been baptised and would like their child to receive this sacrament. Please do call in and see him or telephone him on 01304 374870 if you would like to speak to him about any of these matters. If you would prefer to see me in the first instance in order that I can introduce you to Father Anand, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**PTFA Events**

The first PTFA event this year will be the 'Dance Yourself Dizzy Disco' on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February from 6pm until 8 pm. There are no tickets for this event, just bring the children along! Helpers are needed, please call into the school office if you can lend a hand on the evening.

Following a really successful quiz night in the Autumn and requests for these to be regular events, we will be having another one on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please come along for an evening of fun and good humoured competition!

We have a provisional date for the Easter Egg Hunt of Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30 pm. We will confirm this as soon as possible.

**School Activemark Award**

I am delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the 'Activemark' for our commitment to PE and Sport. Special thanks must go to Miss Smythe for all the work she has put in to enable us to achieve this award.

We look forward to a busy and successful term.

Yours sincerely,

**Annie Keane  
Headteacher**

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**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - INTERNET FORM**

**Child's name:** ..... **Class:** .....

**We do/do not\* have access to the Internet.**

**Would you be happy to receive newsletters via the website rather than in paper form Yes/No\***

**Do you have suggestions as to how we can develop the website further? .....**

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**Please continue on a separate page if necessary**

**\*Please delete as appropriate**