

St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 19th December 2025

Newsletter 05

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness

Christmas at St.Mary's



As we come to the close of Term 2, it's important to reflect on what has been a truly special time for our school community. This Christmas season has brought joy, togetherness and a wonderful sense of celebration that was felt by pupils, staff, families and friends alike.

- Christmas Nativity A huge thank you to our KS1 team for their delightful Simply the Nativity, which was enjoyed by all and showcased the children's talents beautifully. Our EYFS team also deserve special recognition for their charming Easy Cheesy Nativity, which brought smiles and festive cheer to everyone who attended.
- PTA Christmas Fayre & Santa's Grotto We are grateful to our fantastic PTA for organising an excellent Christmas Fayre and creating a truly magical Santa's Grotto. These events not only raised funds for the school but also gave our children and families memories to treasure.
- Christingle Service To round off our Christmas celebrations, our Worship Champions led a fantastic Christingle service at St. Mary's Church. Their leadership and commitment shone through and it was a beautiful way to bring our community together in reflection and celebration.

This term has been filled with joy, creativity, and community spirit. As always, our pupils have shone brightly and we are thankful to our dedicated staff, supportive parents and enthusiastic volunteers who make these moments possible. Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term ahead.

Mr Thomson & Mrs Parsons

Eco Team Christmas Jumper Sale



A huge thank you to the St Marys community for their generous preloved Christmas jumper donations. We were thrilled to have so many pre-loved items donated to school which we then sold and raised funds

for future Eco team activities. Our message of reusing rather than buying new resonated with a lot of you and we received lots of positive comments about the idea! Watch this space for more Eco Team activities in 2026!





House Points Winners



Week 12, Topaz were closely followed by Sapphire, at the end of week 13 Emerald took the lead, Sapphire were just one gem behind.....and last Friday Sapphire took the top spot for Term 2 with their reward being a non uniform day on the last day of Term.

We love hearing the cheers from the Celebration Assembly as house points are awarded.

Attendance Winners



Well done to our weekly attendance champions, each week the class with the highest attendance is rewarded with an extra afternoon playtime and they get to keep the trophy in their classroom for the week!

Week 11 Eagles

Week 12 Badgers 100% Week 13 Eagles

Week 14 Ducklings

MOMENTS MATTER ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

How are we doing?*

Ducklings	93.25%
Rabbits	94.1%
Badgers	97.17%
Foxes	95.89%
Lions	95.48%
Eagles	96.53%
Whole School	95.52%

*Class attendance percentages for this academic year so far

EYFS Nativity

Wow, what a fantastic Nativity performance.

The children of Ducklings and Hedgehogs put on An Easy Cheesy Nativity to a full house this week. The children learned their lines and used their big performing voices to amaze our audience of friends and family.

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting with rehearsing lines and with preparing costumes. The children really enjoyed putting the show together, including making props and set designing for the backdrop of our stage. From singing mice, sheep and cows, to tapdancing donkeys the children told the story of the birth of Jesus with humour and excitement.

What creative and talented children we have in the Early Years!







Christingle Service

Our truly special Christingle Service was held yesterday at St. Mary's Church. It was an inspiring service, brought to life by the dedication and leadership of our amazing Worship Champions! The church was filled with light, carols, and the wonderful smell of oranges as the children proudly held their Christingles.

The Meaning of the Christingle

Our Worship Champions took centre stage, confidently leading the school through the service and explaining the symbolism of the Christingle:

- The Orange: Represents the world.
- The Red Ribbon: Reminds us of the love of God and the blood of Christ.
- The Four Sticks and Fruits: Symbolise the four seasons and the wonderful gifts of the earth.
- The Candle: Represents Jesus, as the Light of the World.

KS1 Nativity

Key Stage One treated the whole school and parents/carers to three absolutely delightful nativity performances! Our show, Simply the Nativity, told the Christmas story in its simplest form but there was nothing simple about what the children achieved!

The children worked tirelessly, learning their lines, perfecting their songs and actions, remembering exactly when to make their grand entrances and even designing and creating the set. From dancing angels to enthusiastic shepherds, they shone on stage like little stars! What creative, dedicated, and downright talented children we have in KS1!

A big thank you to our parents and carers for supporting their children and providing costumes and a huge thank you to the KS1 team for all their hard work in preparing the children for such a fantastic performance.

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award - keep up the great work!

Class	Wk11	Wk12	Wk13	Wk 14
Ducklings	Arlo	Gracie	Melody	Noah
Rabbits	Olly	Sarah	Imogen	Dakota
Badgers	Ophelia	Ellie	Vinny J	Harry
Foxes	Daisy	Willow	Charlie	Albie
Lions	Indigo	Merryn	Evie	Bear
Eagles	Rachel	Arthur	Agnes	Casper















Outside Achievements

What a talented group of children we have at St Mary's both in and out of school they shine! Well done children, we love you sharing your achievements with us every week.

Hedgehogs

Class News:

This term has been packed full of festive fun, lots of exploring outside, climbing, running and even some races! The nursery children wowed us with their performance in their nativity, all showing such confidence up on the stage, we had lots of fun practising all the words and actions for all the songs, we hope the families enjoyed watching them too!

Our focus books have been "Dear Zoo", where we explored using our atlas book learning where the different animals originally come from and if they prefer hot or cold climates. We read "The Littlest Yak" which showed us that being small doesn't slow you down! Finally ending on a firm favourite "Stick Man" which lots of the children by the end of the week knew the ending of the sentences in the book too!



The children thought about what shapes are on a snowman and created their own using different resources to make a circle for the body, and a triangle for their nose. The children have all enjoyed our "sharing" circle time where they've told their peers about how they celebrate at christmas time with some sharing their festive outings and sending photos in to show their peers.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, and we can't wait to see you all in the New Year!

Miss James



Thank you!

The PTA would like to thank everyone for all of your support this year.

We're absolutely delighted to say that we raised £780 at last week's Christmas Fayre! Along with £185 towards our visit from Father Christmas and £171 for refreshments and donations at the brilliant nativity performances.

That's a huge £1136 towards our next project in the KS1 playground (more information coming on that in the New Year)!

We wish you all a wonderful and festive Christmas.

Ducklings



Class News:

What a wonderful term we have had in Reception.

We have really enjoyed exploring our topic of Light and Dark and have learned about so many different light festivals this year. Our preparations for Christmas have included writing a letter to Santa and captions about the Nativity.

In Maths, we have been developing our counting skills and have really enjoyed playing board games based on *The Jolly Christmas Postman story*.

We have enjoyed reading lots of different versions of the Nativity story and think you will agree that the children showed creative flair and amazing talent in their performance of An Easy Cheesy Nativity.

I would like to thank you all for all of the lovely comments and feedback from our audience members and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Mrs Gillard







Class News:

Rabbits have had a very busy and exciting few weeks enjoying lots of Christmas fun.

In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We enjoyed linking this to Christmas by making Christmas trees using different 2D shapes.

In DT, we have finished our textiles unit. We created puppets by designing, tracing, cutting and glueing. We finished the unit by evaluating our finished products and are excited to take them home!

We have been very busy practising and performing in the KS1 Nativity. All of the children did an amazing job and impressed us with their loud, clear voices and confident acting. Most importantly, everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you so much for your support with

costumes and practising lines at home.

We also had a lovely trip to the Egg Theatre to watch **Snow Mice**. The children were amazed by the interactive parts of the show, especially when the snow fell down on us!

We have really enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit in school. We loved watching the EYFS Nativity and thought the children were fantastic, especially their brilliant singing and funny moments. We also enjoyed wearing our Christmas jumpers and spending time making Christmas crafts.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all next term!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree



Badgers



Class News:

Badgers have had a phenomenal couple of weeks!

I would like to begin by saying a huge well done to all of the children in Badgers for their tremendous work on our Nativity performance. They did an amazing job learning their lines, songs and actions. It truly was one of the best Nativity performances I have ever seen. Well done to you all.

We also had a fantastic trip to The Egg Theatre last Friday. Badgers were excellent role models for Rabbits, leading us through Bath calmly and sensibly. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching the show, especially after having just completed their own performances.

In Maths, we have been exploring repeated addition as a foundation

for our upcoming multiplication work. We have spent several lessons using concrete resources to make and add equal groups. In English, the children have been writing Christmas-themed kenning poems, based either on our trip to see **Snow Mice** at The Egg Theatre or on our Nativity performance.

We have taken our learning outdoors in RE, where the children created their own Advent wreaths using leaves and stones. In DT, Badgers have been designing and building chairs for Baby Bear, using cylinders for the legs and folded boxes for the seats. They have worked carefully to ensure their models are stable and strong enough for their teddies to sit on.

Miss Heath





Foxes Class News:



This term has absolutely flown by and the Foxes have been working hard throughout. In PE, the children have made phenomenal progress in their swimming since the start of the year and are becoming so much more water confident which is great to see. We ended the terms with a fun swim - which is always a highlight.

In Maths, we have been working on area, learning how to calculate the area of a shape and how to be accurate when doing so. Our times tables have really helped us with this!

In English, we have enjoyed writing letters to Father Christmas, based on our class text "Dear Father Christmas!" There were certainly a lot of questions and once again the

creativity, attention to detail and handwriting from the class were exceptional.

We have been enjoying our DT unit this term and have been practising our cross stitch and running stitch skills by designing and making a cushion. This has required a lot of focus and effort and the Foxes have amazed us by their perseverance with this project. We hope you like the result!

Finally, we enjoyed a Forest School session where we spent time outside and toasted marshmallows over the campfire.

Well done for a fantastic term Foxes and we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!

Mrs Brown



Lions





Class News:

What a superb end to 2025! Our Year 4/5 Lions have had such a fantastic start to this academic year and have set themselves up to have a brilliantly successful time when we resume in January 2026 and beyond. I've been so impressed by everybody's behaviour, enthusiasm and effort. They really are a phenomenal team!

We've finished the term with some very fun activities.

In Music, we have been improvising and composing our own Blues music, learning about the specific notes that can be used and performing our tunes to the rest of the class on glockenspiels. Everybody sounded so good!

Science has been very investigative this term as we have been discovering which materials make the best thermal insulators. We carried out a fair test which involved covering identical tubs in different materials (fabric, aluminium foil, cling film etc) and then seeing which ones prevented the same amounts of ice in each tub from melting too quickly. We determined this (as you can see in the picture) by measuring the volume of water produced every hour.

Our PE sessions have concluded with us taking part in some hockey tournaments. The skills on show have been very impressive. This has been one of our favourite sports to play.

We have also enjoyed partaking in some of the important national events that have taken place recently, such as **Antibullying Week** (where we all wore odd socks to promote the fact that we celebrate difference at St Mary's) and also **Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day**.

December in the Lions' classroom has been a magical experience with the Christmas lights on and the Christmas music accompanying our learning. We've had a lot of fun visiting Santa's Grotto, watching the Nativity productions and a big well done to Flo and Indigo for representing our class so brilliantly at the Christingle service.

All of our class have totally earned a well-deserved rest now for a couple of weeks and hopefully you will all enjoy a wonderful holiday season. Happy Christmas, everyone!

Mr Daniels

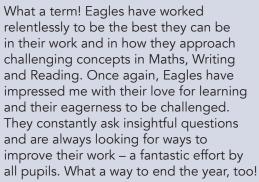




Eagles







In Maths, we have been focusing on fractions. The children now understand not only how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators, but also how to multiply fractions and mixed numbers, as well as how to divide fractions by integers. Their perseverance with this topic has been impressive.

In Reading and Writing, Eagles have been taken by our class reader, 'Good Night Mister Tom'. They have been unpicking the text using VIPERS to answer comprehension questions and have used the story as a stimulus to write their own

World War Two narratives.

In DT, Miss Tolfree and I have been blown away by the children's sewing skills. They have thoroughly enjoyed our 'Make Do and Mend' project. The children started with an old, pre-loved T-shirt and used it to create a tote bag. Eagles have learned a range of stitches and how to embroider details onto their bags to ensure they reflect their own tastes. Even those who weren't initially keen to sew have made great progress and produced a final piece of work to be proud of.

In addition to their hard work, we have also enjoyed taking part in some festive activities, including watching the nativities, visiting Santa's Grotto and making Christmas cards and decorations. Although this has been a challenging term for learning, we have taken great joy in the festivities.

I hope you have a restful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Woods



Christmas Fayre

Our **PTA Christmas Fayre** on Friday was a wonderful success and was filled with festive excitement. The hall was buzzing as children and families enjoyed a wide range of stalls and activities.

Many children described the fayre as "really fun", with lots of activities to take part in. The Rainbow Raffle was a particular highlight; Olly in Year 1 said he was "so surprised" to win the green box. Game stalls were very popular, especially Splat the Rat. Theo in Year 5 proudly shared that he won and went home with two packets of sweets. Harry in Year 2 said, "The bowling was my best bit; you have to throw the ball to win."

Face painting was also a firm favourite, with children choosing bright and creative designs, including a snow leopard. Several children commented on how busy the fair was and noticed how helpful parents were while running the stalls.

The Afterschool Club children enjoyed exploring the fayre with Mrs Hawkins and taking part in the different activities on offer.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the **PTA Christmas Fayre** such an enjoyable and memorable event, especially to the PTA volunteers who gave up their time.

A special mention to Margaret, Bournemouth who helped Santa's Elves prepare the gifts for Santa's Grotto at the last minute.

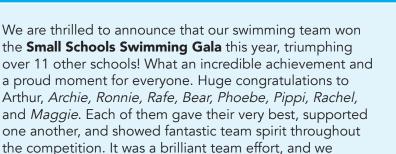


TTRS/ Numbots Day

What an amazing time we had on **Rock Stars and Robots Day!** Thank you to everybody who supported this fun day of Maths activities by dressing up in your amazing costumes. The day started with an assembly at which our school rock band Operation Calculation performed, which was made up of Merryn and Oscar on guitar, with Luca on drums. We had such a great time designing Maths board games and also taking part in a Battle of the Bands competition. We hope everybody was left inspired to practise their subitising skills and key number facts on Numbots and/or try to develop those all-important multiplication facts on Times Tables Rock Stars. Well done to our fantastic team of Maths Ambassadors who helped to plan, prepare and run this special event.



Swimming Success!





Christian Values Awards - Term 2

Compassion Evelyn J, Willow V, Freddie WJ, Isla H, Sophia B, Elizabeth B, Alex C, Anjaleena A

Creativity Bella M, Theeyaa T, Maggie M, Tilly FC

Courage Lottie G, Zack F

Koinonia Bella M, Dawson C, Dexter M, Robin C, Clemmie R, Tommy H

Truthfulness Theo H. Arthur P

Service Harrison M, Luca M, Max R, Merryn H, Rex R, Clemmie C, Hamish M, Roux T, Arlo C,

Lowen T, Theo J, Vinnie P, Aidan B, Eddie S, Joe B

Our New School Systems (Arbor & SchoolGrid)

Thank you for your patience as we transition from ParentPay to our new platforms. While new systems often have a "bedding-down" period, we are confident that **Arbor** and **SchoolGrid** will offer a much-improved experience for our families.

To ensure you are fully set up, please see the guide below:

🝴 SchoolGrid: Meals & Allergies

Use this for: Booking and paying for school lunches.

Access: https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login.aspx

Getting Started: If this is your first time, please select "Request a password reset."

Important Safety Note: Please log in to check that all **dietary requirements and allergen information** are correct for your child.

Account Holders: Only one contact was added during the initial sync. We can manually add additional contacts so that multiple guardians can book meals; however, there can only be one "Main Account Payer."

Support: If you receive an error message, please contact **Rose or Emma** in the office with the email address you are using.

Arbor: Parent Portal

Use this for: Contact details, attendance, consent, and all other payments.

Access: Arbor Parent Portal Link

Getting Started: Enter your email address as your username and click "Reset password." You will then be prompted to enter your child's date of birth for the first log in only.

Key Features: Use Arbor to view attendance and achievements, update medical conditions, and provide consent or payment for **trips, wraparound care, activity clubs, and charity donations**.

MNSP Trust Families: If you have other children at schools within the Trust that use Arbor, you can view all your children through this single portal.

Support: If your email address is not recognized, please Seesaw **Rose or Emma** in the school office.

If you haven't already done so please use the link below to activate your Arbor parent portal.

http://st-marys-cofe-primary-school-147890.uk.arbor.sc/

A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school office and ask to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or any of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell.

The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

During the school holidays if you have a concern about a child, please contact BANES Social Work Services

You can raise your concerns in any of the following ways:

- Call our Children's Social Work Services on 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29 (weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm, except Fridays when we're closed from 4.30pm)
- Drop into the **Keynsham One Stop Shop** and ask for the duty children's social worker
- Discuss your concerns with someone who works with children and families:
- Health visitor Social worker
- School nurse Teacher

Out of office hours

- If you think a child is in immediate danger please BANES Emergency Duty Team on 01454 61 51 65

Tell us immediately about any of the following and open the relevant option for details on how to report your concern:

- A child is suffering significant harm
- You want to protect a child from abuse or serious neglect
- You feel the child requires urgent or short-term care (acute services)

Or you can contact the NSPCC

NSPCC Contact Us





Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 3

Date	Event
05.01.26	INSET DAY
06.01.26	Children return to school for the start of Term 3
29.01.26	Ducklings parent workshop 9:00am
03.02.26	Badgers parent workshop 2:00pm
06.02.26	NSPCC Number Day
06.02.26	Foxes parent workshop 9:00am
09.02.26	SPEAK OUT
10.02.26	Internet Safety Day
10.02.26	Classics Day at Downside - <i>Lions</i>
11.02.26	Rabbits parent workshop 9:00am
11.02.26	Eagles parent workshop 2:00pm
12.02.26	Lions parent workshop 9:00am
12.02.26	PTA Disco
13.02.26	End of Term 3



Thought for the Week

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.' (2 Corinthians 4:6)'

We are all naturally drawn to light. Whether it is catching some rays on a sunny day, or turning on lamps to make a room feel cosy, or lighting up our homes at Christmas - we all love light.

The Christmas story is full of light. The shepherds were greeted by the angels and the glory of God was shining all around them. The magi followed a star, lighting their path to the new baby. At Christmas time, many people make and light lanterns or sometimes Christingles. Each Christingle is topped with a candle, signifying Jesus as the light of the world.

In today's painting, we see the Christian concept of the immaculate conception taking place. The Holy Spirit, signified by the dove, alighting on Mary with a spark of light in his beak - God Most High overshadowing Mary meaning 'the holy one to be born will be the Son of God' (Luke 1:35).

Again, we see light - the divine spark of light, brightness from above bathing both the Holy Spirit and Mary in light. No wonder Jesus is referred to as the 'Light of the World'.

Jesus is also referred to as Emmanuel, which literally means 'God with Us'. For Christians, the Holy Spirit is like God being with us in our hearts and through him we can have divine revelation of who God is, displayed in the face of Christ.

While on earth, Jesus displayed the glory of God. After the shepherds had seen him, they went off to tell everyone about what they had been told by the angels. When the magi saw the child, it was then that they bowed down and worshipped him. When Jesus was

a man, there was a moment when he was transfigured and 'his face shone like the sun' (Matthew 17:2). For many, this just shows that Jesus was literally God on Earth - God with us - God in human form.

If this is the case, then surely this is why Christmas matters so much to Christians. We are all drawn to light, so why not be drawn to the light of the world? We all want light to shine in dark places, so why not allow God to shine in the dark places in our lives and in our world?

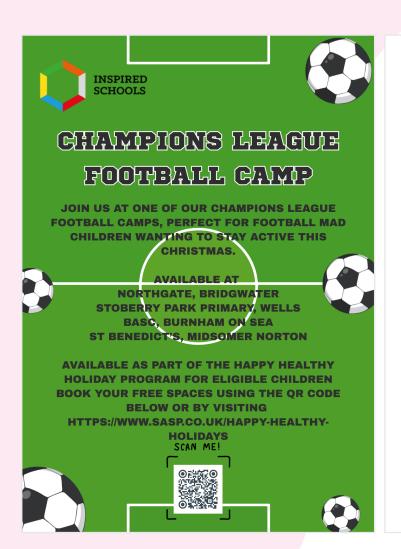
I hope and pray that this Christmas time you may find the knowledge of God and his glory as it is displayed in the face of Christ.

Paul Marvin (Christian Distinctiveness MAT Lead)





Immaculate Conception with Saints - Piero di Cosimo (c.1485-1505)





DISCOVERY DAYS

at WEMA Music Centres

Our free-of-charge Discovery Days are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.



Sign up using the QR code or visit: wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres





Foodbank Christmas Opening

Manvers Street Baptist Church Foodbank Centre - BATH

Open as normal up to and including Monday 22nd December Open Wednesday 24th (Christmas Eve) 11am – 12pm Open Tuesday 30th December 12.30pm – 2.30pm Re-open as normal Friday 2nd January

All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

Lighthouse Centre, Twerton - BATH

Open as normal up and including Tuesday 23rd December Re-open as normal from Tuesday 6th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

St Philip and St James' Church Centre, Odd Down - BATH

Re-open as normal $\underline{\text{for pre-arranged collection}}$ Wednesday 7^{th} January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

The Key Centre - KEYNSHAM

Open as normal up and including Monday 22nd December Open Monday 29th December 10am – 12pm Re-open as normal from Monday 5th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

St Francis Church - KEYNSHAM

Open as normal up and including Thursday 18th December Re-open as normal from Thursday 8th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

St Mary's Church - SALTFORD

Open as normal up and including Friday 19th December Re-open as normal from Friday 2nd January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

St John's Church - MIDSOMER NORTON

Open as normal up and including Wednesday 17th December Re-open as normal from Wednesday 7th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

Paulton Methodist Church - PAULTON

Open as normal up and including Monday 22nd December Open Monday 29th December 12pm – 2pm Re-open as normal from Monday 5th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

St Nicholas Church Café - RADSTOCK

Open as normal up and including Wednesday 17th December Open Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 12pm – 1pm Re-open as normal from Wednesday 7th January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

Peasedown Methodist Church – PEASDOWN ST JOHN

Open as normal up and including Friday 19th December Re-open as normal from Friday 2nd January All other dates between Christmas and New Year the centre is closed

Deliveries - Bath area only

Deliveries are strictly for people with mobility or health issues, who cannot come to a foodbank centre and do not have anyone else to collect on their behalf – this service has limited capacity and currently we only

Deliveries as per normal schedule up to and including Thursday 18th December

Deliveries Tuesday 30th December 12pm – 2pm – cut off time for requesting delivery is 5pm on 29th December – please remember to include clients contact details or we cannot deliver Deliveries re-start as normal from 7th January

Foodbank contact details:

Fmail: info@bksv.foodbank.org.uk

Phone: 01225 438361 - please leave a message and we will return your call

The foodbank will be closed from 12pm on 24th December until 29th December – all external calls and emails received during this period will be responded to on 30th December.

office@genesistrust.org.uk

Phone: 01225 463549 - please leave a message and we will return your call

Open as normal until 12pm on 23rd December

Open for emails/phone messages on 29th, 30th, 31st December and 2nd January.

Re-open as normal from Monday 5th January

 $All other dates \ between \ Christmas \ and \ New \ Year \ the \ of \! fice \ is \ closed-any \ emails \ or \ phone \ messages \ will \ be$ answered on next working day