



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Tuesday 19th December 2023

Newsletter 06

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

Christmas at St Mary's

This December at St Mary's, we celebrated Christmas with Christmas Jumper Day, Christingles, the Christmas Fayre, Nativities and Christmas parties.

Year 1 and year 2's Nativity was the Bethlehem Bake-Off. They performed it to all of the children in our school and their parents. They did things such as singing, baking and wonderful acting!

Reception and Nursery's Nativity was told through songs and narration. The school watched it on the 11th December and it was a great performance.

Christmas Jumper Day, which was the same day as the Christmas Fayre, was on the 8th of December. Everybody in our school came in wearing a Christmas jumper and donated some money to help give children the magical future they deserve. It is a fun way to help support some kids who are facing serious issues like war, hunger and poverty.

The Christmas Fayre had many stalls and all of them were very fun. It took place in Year 2, Year 1, the library and the hall. Year 5 and 6 ran the Christmas cookie decorating stall and it was one of the tastiest stalls. There was face painting, snowball fight, guess the name of the teddy, guess the number of sweets in a jar, and wreath making. The raffle was exciting and there were six crates stuffed with goods that you could possibly win. Teddy won the teddy! It was called Isaac. Elsie won the jar of sweets. There were one hundred and ninety sweets in there and she guessed one hundred and eighty-three.

The Christmas parties were held today on the 15th of December and the children did fun activities. They could bring in a change of clothes for the party in their class and if you wanted snacks you had to bring your own, because of dietary requirements. There would be fun Christmas games to play until the end of the party. You must have caught the Christmas spirit by then!

Did you know? The orange of a Christingle represents the world, the red ribbon or tape is the love and blood of Jesus, the sweets and dried fruit are all of God's creations, the cocktail sticks are the four seasons and the candle is Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. Christingles originated in Germany in 1747 in the village of John de Watteville. 'Christingle' translates to 'Christ Angel.' In our school, on December 18th, we had our Christingle service and we sung Christmas carols and made Christingles.

By Lily and Elsie



House Points Winners



Well done to **Sapphire** for being our House Point winners this Term.

Attendance Winners



Congratulations to both **Ducklings & Foxes Class** for having 100% attendance last week. This weeks champions are **Ducklings, Badgers & Lions Class** all with a 100% attendance - well done

Wraparound Club

Since our last Newsletter, we've been busy preparing for the holiday season. Our hall now boasts a stunning Christmas tree, generously donated by Jake & Tash from Cam Plant Hire Ltd and also to Ian Tarmas from Design Spaces for their very generous donations.

The children in wraparound club have been especially creative, crafting beautiful Christmas decorations. They have been expanding the paper chain in the hall beyond last year's record! We've also enjoyed some classic Parlour Games, with "Don't make me laugh" emerging as the clear favourite. To help the children unwind after a busy few weeks at school, we've provided plenty of construction toys, board games, crafting materials, and educational apps on the iPads and of course, singing along to Christmas Hits!

We hope everyone has a wonderful time and wish all our families a Merry Christmas.

The Great Timsbury Bake Off!

At St Mary's school, the children brought cookies, cakes and cupcakes for The Great Timsbury Bake Off. The Great Timsbury Bake off is about raising money for an outdoor reading lodge- which is worth fifteen thousand pounds. We sold the cakes after school on the 30th of November and the 1st of December to raise money for the reading lodge.

The winners were Rosie, who was 3rd, Noah, who was 2nd and Max, who was 1st. The cakes were judged by school volunteers but they didn't know who made which cake. Max (1st prize) made a lovely chocolate reindeer cake, Noah (2nd prize) made a M&M covered chocolate cake and Rosie (3rd prize) made a tasty snowman cake.

All the children who entered did a very good job and we raised lots of money. We raised over £250 pounds. That means if we continue to work hard we should be able to buy a nice reading lodge for the outside area. Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm for this fundraising activity and to the PTA for the generous prizes for all pupils who took part! In future we should be able to pay for even more good equipment. Also, we might do the bake off again so come to the school if you want to try some DELICIOUS cakes!

By Mog, Pippi, Elsie and Lily



Year 3 and 4 Football Match vs Longvernal

We had a fantastic time hosting a year 3 and 4 football match vs Longvernal School in late November. St. Mary's won the match 2-0, which is a fantastic achievement! The match was played here at St. Mary's straight after school. Thank you to everyone who came to support the teams and players. All of the children had a great time playing football on our fantastic large sports field.



Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award in the past weeks.



Christian Value

This week in school, we focussed on the Nativity Story (how could we not!?)

The children in Hedgehogs, Ducklings, Rabbits and Badgers all put on spectacular performances for us to enjoy!

- It is the simple and memorable story of the birth of Jesus.
- It is the simple story of a loving mother and a faithful father.
- It is the simple story of humble beginnings in a stable.
- It is the story of how the Light overcame the Darkness by becoming flesh and dwelling among us (John 1:5,14).

It is also the story of a temporarily homeless family.

As we head into the Christmas holiday season, let us remain mindful of the poor, needy and homeless people in our community.

Our Big Question

"How can we ensure we remain mindful of the poor, needy and the homeless this Christmas?"



Hedgehogs



Class News:

We have been having a wonderfully festive time in Hedgehogs the last couple of weeks. We have been sharing with each other what this time of year means to our family and the individual traditions we enjoy at home. As usual we have been having fun with lots of arts and craft activities. The children have especially enjoyed decorating our Christmas tree- both the real one in our home corner and a large cardboard one that was on display at our Nativity.

We have talked about the changing seasons as we approach Winter, noticing how our water play has turned to ice play. The cold hasn't stopped us from having time outside, especially at Forest School. Thank you for bringing in wellies, waterproofs, gloves, hats, scarves and warm coats, it means we can keep enjoying the outside whatever the weather!

Well done to those children who worked hard to produce some beautiful cakes for the **Great Timsbury Bake Off** they were over the moon to be awarded with their medals.

We are sure you have delighted in hearing the wonderful songs Mrs Munro has taught us for our Nativity, it was lovely Hedgehogs could join in this year and I think you will all agree they did a wonderful job. Some of our children are still very young but they gave their all; singing, dancing and shaking their tails as sheep! Thank you to so many of you for coming to watch at such a busy time of year, we hope you enjoyed it too.

With only a couple of days left of this term we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we can not wait for even more fun in the New Year.

EYFS Team



Ducklings



Class News:

What a great few weeks we've had. The children have worked so hard to share the Christmas Nativity with you. I'm sure you'll agree they were amazing. We were all so proud of them, learning their lines and remembering what to do at the right time. We've been thinking about different traditions we all have over the Christmas period.

We've continued embedding our number work within 10. We have been using 10s frames and are learning to count objects accurately into sets. We have enjoyed recognising shapes and finding different 2D shapes in our environment. We've created some great pictures using common 2D shapes.

Our writing continues to improve with daily phonics lessons. We have enjoyed focussing on *"Can't you Sleep Little Bear"* and using it as a stimulus for lots of conversations. One of which resulted

in a good conversation about light sources. What lights up? What needs batteries? What uses light to make it shine?

We are working hard to strengthen our little hands, which also helps us write well. We enjoy our regular dough gym and threading activities.

As part of our Personal Social and Emotional Development, this term we've been learning about 'Me'. Why am I special? What am I good at? Learning that we have differences that need to be celebrated.

Thank you for another amazing term, for your continued support and conversations to help your little ones flourish. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and will look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

Rabbit Class started this festive season with their amazing Nativity. They have been working so hard over the last few weeks to remember their lines and the songs. We have had so much fun teaming up with Badger Class and I have been super impressed with how hard they have all worked to create an amazing performance. A big thank you to all the parents for their help with supplying costumes, rehearsing lines and coming to see our Nativity performance. This would not have been possible without your help.

In addition to our Nativity practice, Rabbits have been enjoying starting our new topic in English. We have been learning all about *poetry* and have been writing our own poems about fireworks.

In Maths, we have just finished our

unit of place value within 20. We have been exploring the numbers to 20, finding one more and one less and comparing numbers within 20. We have found that resources like ten frames and number lines have really supported our learning.

Finally, Rabbit Class have been learning all about the *human body* and *our senses*. We have explored what different parts of our bodies are used for and have begun to learn about each of the five senses.

Term 2 has been very busy with lots of different events and Rabbit Class have been working so hard this term. They definitely deserve a wonderful Christmas break!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Miss Tolfree



Badgers

Class News:



Badgers have been working hard right up until the final moments of Term 2 showing their love of learning and resilience!

We are still having a big push on phonics in Year 2 and we have been focusing on alternate spellings for phonemes and alternate sounds for graphemes this term. This is a very tricky concept, however Badgers have risen to the challenge and I am so impressed with the progress they are making.

In Maths, we have been introducing the column method for addition and working out what to do when the ones total more than 9. The children couldn't be tricked and spotted all of the mistakes we made when modelling. Well done Badgers!

We have had a very crafty end to this term completing lots of our art projects. We have been focusing on creating abstract work linked to maps.

The children have really enjoyed this and have made stained glass window maps and printed map work. They look really effective.

We have had many reasons to celebrate over the last couple of weeks. We have had 2 Christmas jumper days, Christmas dinner, Mrs Roberts and Alfie came to visit us, Max winning the **Great Timsbury Bake Off** and how could I forget our incredible Nativity! The children were absolute stars! They really **rose** to the occasion and enjoyed having a fabulous audience. Thank you for your help and support with learning lines (there were lots!) and costumes. I think you will agree that it was definitely worth it.

All that is left to say is have a fantastic Christmas and we can't wait to see you all in the New Year for more fun!!

Mrs Newman



Foxes Class

Class News:



What a wonderful few weeks to end Term 2.

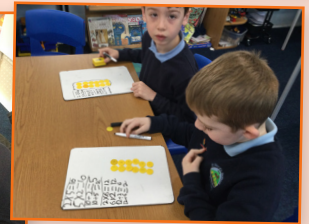
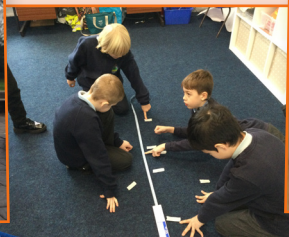
In Fox Class, we have been busy learning more about the *Ancient Egyptians*. We have discovered more about the gods that they worshipped and the animals which represented their beliefs. We had great fun writing in hieroglyphics.

During Geography lessons, we have followed the course of a river from the source to the sea, learning lots along the way.

In English lessons, the children have written their version of the *Scarab's Secret*. I have been impressed with the children's ideas and their imagination. The children enjoyed reading their stories to each other and suggested ways to improve them. We have also been learning about letters. We have planned and written our own letter to Father Christmas, this included some challenging questions for him to answer.

In Maths, we have been learning about arrays in multiplication and division. We revisited the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and we have been working hard to master the three multiplication tables.

In Science, we planned and carried out an investigation.



The children measured their femurs and measured how far they could jump. They wanted to find out if people with the longest femurs could jump the furthest. We had some interesting results!

During Design Technology, we have been focussing on creating wonderful cushions using running stitch, cross stitch and applique.

Fox Class, alongside Lion Class, visited the Golden Oldies in Conygre Hall. They beautifully sang a selection of Christmas songs which enchanted the watching audience. They performed *Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer* by singing it at the same time as using British Sign Language. This was tricky to master and I was astounded at how quickly the children were able to pick up this new skill. They also learned to sing *Feliz Navidad* (a Spanish Christmas song) and mastered all of the challenging Spanish words.

The end of term has brought with it many events. We enjoyed wearing our festive jumpers and getting into the Christmas spirit.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Mrs Hayward

Lions

Class News:



This term has flown by and Lion Class have been working incredibly hard. In English, we have finished writing our own versions of *Varjak Paw*, ensuring they are full of suspense and intrigue. The children have really impressed me with their hard work on these and they have produced some wonderful stories that really do build up the tension!

In Geography, we have continued learning about Antarctica and have been thinking about the impact climate change is having on this vast continent. The children used their mathematical skills to interpret statistics that showed the decline in sea ice over the past few decades. The results were astonishing and the children were really keen to understand why global temperatures are rising and what can be done to tackle this important issue.

As Scientists, we are working on understanding *States of Matter* and have enjoyed getting hands on with a variety of different experiments that show changing states. We have investigated how water goes through a variety of changes; such as a solid ice cube that melts becoming liquid, how steam becomes liquid

through condensation and how gas appears as bubbles within liquid.

In Music, we finished the term with a wonderful performance of festive songs at the Timsbury Golden Oldies Christmas party. Alongside Year 3, the children sang a selection of songs which included them having to sing in Spanish and use sign language. The audience were fantastic and made us feel very welcome and the children represented the school beautifully.

Finally, we have found time to start getting in the Christmas spirit and have enjoyed taking part in all of the fantastic events that have been going on in school. **The Great Timsbury Bake Off** was a huge success and who knew we had so many fabulous bakers in Lion Class! We also enjoyed taking part in **Christmas Jumper Day**, raising money for **Save the Children**. We are looking forward to all the festive activities we have lined up for the last week of term.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas - see you in 2024!

Mrs Brown



Eagles

Class News:



It has been feeling very Christmassy in Eagles this week!

This term has absolutely flown by, Eagles have been working incredibly hard.

Eagles have embraced Christmas in English this week by exploring the traditional hymn *Good King Wenceslas*. We have had a fun couple of weeks unpicking the archaic phrases used in the song, and translating them to the standard English we use today. We have now undertaken the challenge of coming up with our own verse to add to the song.

Year Five have taken part in a local Christmas card competition with Mini Police, designing their own Christmas card covers. These will be judged by the Police Sergeant and the winner announced on Friday 15th December. This Term, Mini Police have also conducted a litter pick at Timsbury Park as well as trying their hand at using the police radios. For additional photos, please see the Mini Police Facebook page: Bath and North East Somerset Neighbourhood Police.

The Christmas spirit continued to grow, as we took part in **Christmas Jumper Day**, raising money for **Save the Children**. We have been busy making our baubles for the tree in the hall, as well as making and decorating our Christmas Cards. Christmas dinner was delicious, and we all had a Christmas cracker to pull with a hat and a joke inside!

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath

Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala

Well done to all of the children who participated in the small schools' Swimming Gala in early December. Spike, Noah, Jack, Ben C, Elsie, Mog, Lola P and Bobbi from Eagles swam brilliantly. Overall, we finished in 6th place (out of 10 schools). Ben C won the individual 25m Backstroke race! Spike won a bronze medal in the individual 25 freestyle. Mog won a bronze medal in the 50m freestyle. We were incredibly proud of the whole swimming team; they all represented the school with distinction.



Music Tuition at St Mary's

We can offer Music lessons with an external provider.

Music lessons should be booked directly with the WEMA Service.

Please contact visit <https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/>

You will then be sent a link to an online application form. You can also call the West of England Music and Arts Service on 01454 863147.

For more information have a look at our website:

<https://www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk/parents-zone/music-tuition.html>

Emile Spelling Competition

A couple of weeks ago, we took part in the National Finals of the Emile Spelling Competition.

We worked really hard and showed great passion and resilience despite some technical issues. Our final position was 21st which is a fantastic result!

4 children were recognised as they were in the top 100 spellers in the country! Huge congratulations to...

Annabel Potts	87th
Ben Carey	84th
Ralph Pursey	51st
Noah Lines	37th



We are so proud of you!!

Dates for your Calendar 2023/24 - Term 2 onwards

Date	Event	Notes
02 & 03.01.24	Inset Days	
04.01.24	BACK TO SCHOOL - TERM 3	
05.01.24	The Egg School Trip Year 4 & Year 5	
19.01.24	Life skills Year 6	
02.02.24	NSPCC Number Day	
06.02.24	Internet Safety Day	
09.02.24	End of Term 3	
19.02.24	Start of Term 4	
05.03.24	Mid Somerset Festival speaking competition.	