



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

Christingles and Carols

This year we are hosting a Christingles and Carols service at the Church. This service will be held on **Thursday 15th December at 9:30** at the church. All parents are invited to join us for this festive occasion. Here is a quick overview of the other Christmas events happening at St.Mary's this year:



- Christmas Fayre - Saturday 3rd December: 10am-2pm at school.
- Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 8th December
- Reception / Year 1 Nativity - Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December
- Christmas lunch Day - Wednesday 14th December
- Christingles and Carols - Thursday 15th December: 9:30am at the Church
- PTA Christmas Panto - Saturday 17th December at 2pm.

World Cup

Well done to all of the children who have completed our Geography World Cup quiz so far. It has been great hearing about how children are getting out their atlases at home or researching online and have been finding out the answers to the questions about the countries that are involved in the tournament. There will be a different quiz each week while the World Cup is on - best of luck!



Advent

This week, we focussed on Advent.

The Advent season is a four week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates "coming" or "arrival". It is a time when Christians prepare for the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. The four themes are: hope, preparation, joy and love. Churches across the world light one candle per week to mark each week. For many families, Advent calendars carry the message of anticipation and hope in the run up to Christmas.

Big Question

"How can we spend our time preparing for Christmas by thinking about others? Especially those less fortunate than ourselves?"

House Points Winners

Well done to **Topaz** for being our House Point winners this week.



Attendance Winners

Congratulations to **Eagles** last week and **Ducklings** this week for excellent attendance.



Christmas Hats

Keeping with St Mary's tradition, we invite the children to wear Christmas Hats for their Christmas dinner on the **14th December**. This year, we would like the children to make their hats at home and bring them in on **Monday 12th December** to ensure everybody has one in time. This is not a competition but a bit of festive fun! We are looking forward to seeing your creations and having a very merry time!



Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award.

Ducklings:	Amelie, Rosalie
Rabbits:	Lottie
Badgers:	Florence
Foxes:	T'gan
Lions:	Zach, Bobbi
Eagles:	Lily



Christian Values Awards

The children recognised for demonstrating our Christian Values over the last two weeks are:

Compassion: Tavie-Ann, Digby, Daisy, Leah-Mai, Lily, Lucas

Courage: Imogen, Felix



Christmas Tree

We would like to thank Rocky Mountain Nurseries (near Wells) & also Kingwell Farm for kindly donating fantastic Christmas trees to the school. The staff at Rocky Mountain also helped select a range of Cherry Blossom trees for us to plant in school as part of National Tree week this week.



Hedgehogs

Class News:

This week in Hedgehogs we have been getting into the spirit of Christmas! We decorated our virtual Christmas tree on our new interactive Media Board using lots of different shapes. We shared a story about snowmen and then made our own versions of them by scrunching up tissues and making snowmen hats.

We had muddy welly walks where we looked for different shapes around us, counting them along the way. We explored words that rhyme and had a giggle coming up with words that didn't rhyme!

Ms James



Ducklings



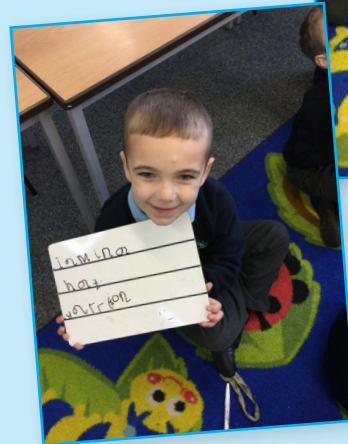
Class News:

We've had a great couple of weeks in Duckling Class learning all about rhyme. The children learnt and performed the poem 'Jelly on a plate' and thought hard about words that are rhyming pairs.

We have also been working really hard in phonics on writing simple sentences. Amazingly, the children are starting to use their finger spaces between words when they write, with great results.

December is now here which Mrs Winney and Mrs Munro are thrilled about because it can only mean one thing... our class Christmas decorations can go up for everyone to enjoy! We are very much looking forward to celebrating Christmas together during the next few weeks.

Mrs Winney



Rabbits



Class News:

Rabbit Class has been busy making the most of the autumnal weather this past fortnight.

As geographers, we went on a walk around the school to complete some fieldwork about the environment and in Science we went on an autumn hunt, to spot the remaining signs of autumn before it turns into winter. We have chosen two of our favourite trees in school and will observe them throughout the year to help us learn about seasonal change. We also went on a deciduous and evergreen tree hunt to celebrate national tree week. Did you know evergreen trees never lose their leaves, even in winter, that's why they are called 'ever'green. We made leaf rubbings and leaf crowns which was lots of fun!

In English we have been working hard on writing a story retell of "Dogger", there are many blossoming writers in Rabbit Class and as mathematicians we have been working strategically through our number bonds. Finding all the different ways we can make a total within ten. The class has really enjoyed this hands-on investigative Maths.

Amongst our busy lessons, we have been working collaboratively as artists and are eagerly preparing our nativity performance for everyone to see. We now know the songs really well and are working so hard to learn our lines. We can't wait to put on a show for you!

Mrs Roberts

Badgers



Class News:

Badger Class has been busy as always this fortnight. In Geography, we have been out in the school grounds looking at the features we can spot and then using positional language and compass directions to label an aerial photograph of the school. Ask the children if they can remember the points of the compass!

We had a trip to the War Memorial in Timsbury as part of our History topic on Remembrance. The children were really interested in the names of the soldiers inscribed on the memorial and made observational drawings of the poppy wreaths that had been placed there on Remembrance Day.

In Science, we conducted an experiment to understand why it is so important to wash our hands with soap rather than just with water. The "germs" were repelled by the soap and the Badgers really enjoyed this opportunity to work as real scientists.

Finally, in English, we finished writing the next chapter in the "Traction Man" story and then worked with a partner to edit and improve our stories. We have been so impressed with the amazing writing the Badgers produced, there were certainly some exciting adventures for "Traction Man"!

Well done for a fantastic fortnight Badgers!

Mrs Brown



Foxes



Class News:

Wow! What a busy few weeks we have had in Foxes Class!

In Art, we have continued with our Egyptian scrolls. We have thought about adapting Egyptian symbols to represent us and have made our own papyrus paper ready for our final designs. It was incredibly messy but lots of fun!

During our PSHE lessons, we have been looking at what to do if we have a falling out with a friend or family member and how to spot bullying. We had lots of great ideas and definitely demonstrated our school value of compassion throughout the lesson.

We have really enjoyed using the atlases in Geography to locate countries and capital cities in Europe. Miss Guest was very impressed with our map skills and is really enjoying teaching our topic, 'Where in the World?'

Lastly, we can't wait to welcome you to our class worship next week followed by our parent workshop!

Miss Guest and Mrs Downing

Lions



Class News:

What a wonderful fortnight in Lion Class.

We have worn spots to raise money for Children in Need and odd socks for Anti-Bullying Week.

We have been learning about multiples, factors, square and cube numbers in our Maths lessons.

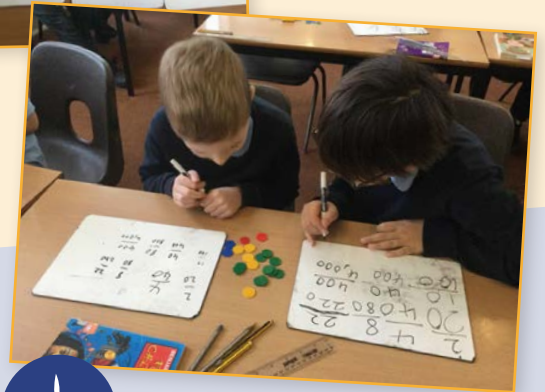
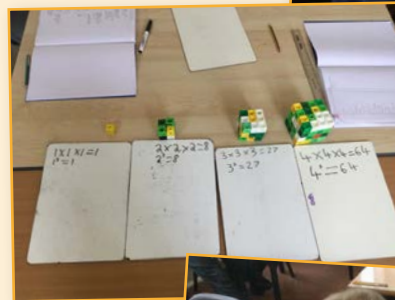
During English lessons, we have been learning about modal verbs and nursing them in our writing. We have been practising using a wider range of subordinating conjunctions and explored different ways of starting persuasive sentences.

In Science lessons, we have been learning about the life cycle of insects, amphibians, flowering plants and trees. We have compared these life cycles and were surprised by how many similarities there were.

In Geography, we investigated how animals are adapted to different parts of the rainforest.

We are enjoying learning how to create vector drawings in Computing lessons.

Mrs Hayward



Eagles



Class News:

We have been enjoying getting involved in some important national events over the last couple of weeks, lending our support to some great causes. These have included Anti-Bullying Week and Children In Need.

We joined in with schools across the UK in wearing odd socks as a sign that we will not tolerate bullying of any kind and reminded ourselves of what we should do if it ever occurred in our school. On Children In Need Day, we joined everybody in a 'Spotacular' fundraising event where we dressed up in spotty clothes.

In the classroom, we have been finding out all about Carl Linnaeus and his classification system in Science, we have been learning about the Maasai Mara National Park in Kenya in Geography and in Art we have begun working with Mrs Downing on producing illustrations for her latest children's book, the second in the series of The Limestone Locket Mysteries.

Outside of the classroom, we have enjoyed our cross-country sessions on the school field, learning how we can continue to improve our stamina levels. Also, we have demonstrated good gymnastic and coaching skills in the school hall, as we have helped each other to make improvements in the control and precision of our shapes and rolls.

Mr Daniels



Anti-Bullying Week

In Anti-Bullying Week, we celebrate that we are all different and that no one should be bullied because of who they are.

In our school, we had three assemblies about raising awareness and stopping bullying. We also wore odd socks on Friday to show how important it is that we are different. Each assembly was led by a different Leadership Team. The Worship Champions led one on Monday and Tuesday the School Council led one. Then on Wednesday, the Digital Team led an assembly on cyber-bullying.

We interviewed some of the teachers:

Mr Thomson said, *"We will definitely do lots of events in the future because I think anti-bullying is a really important cause."*

Mrs Roberts said, *"I think we should do a termly assembly on anti-bullying to remind people of the important messages. Children leading the assemblies shows that the Leadership Teams know what they are talking about and it reminds everyone that you can always talk to other children as well, not just the adults."*

Odd Socks Day in Year 6

Report by St Mary's News Team
Esme, Heidi and Mia (Y6), Lily (Y5) and Willow (Y4)



Dates for your Calendar 2022/23 - Term 2

Date	Event	Notes
Saturday 3rd December	PTA Christmas Fayre 10am - 2pm	More information below in the PTA news
Wednesday 7th December	Foxes Parent Workshop	
Wednesday 7th December	Netball Match v St Benedict's	
Thursday 8th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Whole School
Friday 9th December	St. Mary's Open Day	Whole School
Tuesday 13th December	Ducklings and Rabbits Nativity 1 (more information to follow)	
Wednesday 14th December	Ducklings and Rabbits Nativity 2 (more information to follow)	
Wednesday 14th December	Christmas Lunch Day	
Thursday 15th December	Christingles and Carols @ the Church 9:30am	Whole School
Friday 16th December	End of Term 2	
Saturday 17th December	PTA Panto 2pm	More information below in the PTA news
Wednesday 4th January	BACK TO SCHOOL - TERM 3	

Office News:

Christmas Lunch will be served on **Wednesday 14th December**, please book via Parentpay.

Writhlington Orchestra Visit

All of the pupils in Year 4/5 and Year 6 went on a special school trip to Writhlington School and saw an orchestra play. We wanted to do this so we could experience what it's like for brass bands to play.

A lady called Laura told us all about her instrument, the french horn, and her friends told us about their instruments as well. There were two trumpets, a tuba and a trombone.

Everybody really enjoyed this visit and we saw some of the students from St Mary's who are now in Year 7 whilst we were there. We played a game of 'Wake up, Luke!' where we had to wake Luke up if he fell asleep during his performance. Isaac was chosen to walk around carrying a funnel while one of the performers blew through the end of a long hose pipe to demonstrate how vibrations are needed to produce sound. At the end we did a vote on what song they should play and the options were a song from Moana, the James Bond theme or the song Happy. In the end, Happy won and the performance was great.

Report by St Mary's News Team

Esme, Heidi and Mia (Y6), Lily (Y5) and Willow (Y4)



Children in Need

Children in Need is an annual event that funds thousands of charities and projects in every corner of the UK, supporting children and young people. Their mascot is the now famous Pudsey bear. The female Pudsey is called Blush and was introduced a lot later. She is brown and unlike Pudsey, she wears a polka dot bow, not a bandana.

For Children In Need this year, we dressed up in spots and raised money for the charity. Thank you to everybody who donated and supported the event. Our School raised £128.

Report by St Mary's News Team

Esme, Heidi and Mia (Y6), Lily (Y5) and Willow (Y4)



STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS!

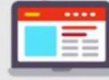
IPADS



Be careful what you download
Play games appropriate for your age
Ask to set up agreed parental controls with you to help



LAPTOPS



Make sure to take care with what information you share!
Be careful about online games - are they appropriate?
Make sure you know who you are talking with



CONSOLES



Take close care who you play with online!
Try to play games that are suitable for your age.
Make sure to take it in turns playing games with others

SOCIAL MEDIA



Use social media appropriate to your age
Use a safe profile picture
If you are pressured into sharing something you aren't comfortable with ask an adult

St Mary's School PTA presents...

The Christmas Fayre

*Saturday 3rd December,
10am to 2pm,*

In the school hall and classrooms

*Stalls, tombola, raffle, face painting,
make a christmas wreath, crafts,
meet Santa and get a gift,
food & cakes, drinks & hot chocolate!*



Don't forget to bring cash!