



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 16th December 2022

Newsletter 08

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

Headteacher's Message

We have managed to squeeze lots of Christmas activity into last two weeks of term at St Mary's. We had a really successful Christmas Fayre- thank you to everyone who came along and contributed to the Fayre. The children enjoyed wearing Christmas Jumpers to raise money for 'Save the Children'.

It has been a rather cold last couple of weeks, but we all had a memorable time in the snow (when it was still fresh!) Ducklings and Rabbits wowed us all with their brilliant Nativity performances. They all worked so hard and they were very brave performing in front of so many people. To round off a busy list of Christmas events, we had our Christingles and Carol service at St Mary's Church. Year 6 and the Worship Champions led a festive and traditional service for us all to enjoy. Thank you to the whole staff team who have worked tirelessly to support the children both with their learning and the performances. Their hard work and dedication is much appreciated - It truly is a team effort!

Our thanks also go to the PTA who continue to support our school in a variety of ways including sourcing and decorating our Christmas tree, arranging for Father Christmas to visit and organising fundraising activities throughout the year. This involves them giving up their time to meet, plan and make everything happen. Thank you to everyone who is a part of this team.

On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors of St Mary's I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4th January for the first term of 2023.

Mrs Parsons



House Points Winners



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

Attendance Winners



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

Christian Values Awards



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

- Compassion:** Kiereese, Logan, Joseph P, Violet, Dawson.
- Service:** Evie P, Rosalie
- Courage:** Merryn
- Truthfulness:** Louie, Pippi

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award.

- Ducklings:** Rowan, Malachy
- Rabbits:** Olivia, Evelyn
- Badgers:** Sol, Martha
- Foxes:** Emily R, Casper
- Lions:** Noah, Roscoe
- Eagles:** Florence, Freddie



Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 3rd December, our school held a Christmas Fayre to raise money for the PTA. There were lots of stalls such as wreath making, 'splat the elf' and guess the weight of the cake. There was also a tombola, a jumble sale, temporary tattoos, face paints, and arts and crafts. You could even buy a deluxe hot chocolate and cupcakes!

We also had a special visitor...FATHER CHRISTMAS!!! You could go to see him in his grotto and get a little present.

It was great to see so many people attending this event. As you can see, some of our ex-pupils came back to visit us too.

In total, the PTA raised £920.14

Report by St Mary's News Team

Esme, Heidi and Mia (Year 6), Lily (Year 5), and Willow (Year 4)



Outside Achievements



Congratulations to **Spike** who received Level 4 in this swimming lessons. Well done from us all.



Hedgehogs



Class News:

The children in Hedgehogs Class have had such a fun, busy few weeks, they have been working really hard to learn their Christmas songs which they then performed on Monday for their parents and carers. They've had so much fun exploring the frost and snow, crunching it up, watching it melt, and building tiny snowmen! We continued with our sound games, learning the sound "m" and "f". We enjoyed lots of Christmas activities, a big favourite was our salt dough decorations.

Ms. James



Ducklings



Class News:

It most certainly is THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR and Duckling Class has been fully immersing themselves in all things 'Christmas' this week!

Our snowy start to the week was great fun with the children able to explore outside and make mini snow creatures. It has felt very wintry this week as we have begun to talk about the changing seasons and have used our observation skills to look at the changes in our national environment.

In class, we have been busy writing cards, making decorations, and singing Christmas songs. The children shared their wishes for Christmas with each other which included something for themselves and something for someone they loved. They had some really great ideas.

Finally, we were immensely proud of all of the children who performed during their very first Nativity this week. There was a touch of magic in the air on Wednesday morning and I know the children were absolutely thrilled with how many adults came to see them perform. Thank you to all of our wonderful parents for your support with learning lines, providing costumes, and encouraging us whilst on stage - we couldn't have done it without you!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs. Winney and Mrs. Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

What a wonderful, Christmas-filled week we have had! Rabbit Class had lots of fun in the snow, building snowmen and going on welly walks to spot the signs of a changing season. We wore Christmas hats for our Christmas lunch and enjoyed playing games at our class party.

Most of our week has been taken up with Nativity performances and wow, what a show Rabbit Class put on. They showed lots of courage and creativity performing in front of the whole school and to parents and other adults. It's not easy being on that stage but none of them were phased. They sang their hearts out and performed brilliantly, each and every one of them doing themselves proud. Thank you to all the grown-ups who gave them lots of support.

It's been a busy but great term with hard work, increasing independence, and lots of fun. Rabbits, and all of your families, have a lovely Christmas and enjoy the break. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mrs. Roberts



Badgers



Class News:

Well the snow this week has certainly added to the Christmassy feeling in Badgers Class and the children have had many happy playtimes outside this week making mini snowmen. In Forest School, once kitted out in their warmest clothes, the children spent time in the forest area and enjoyed a warming hot chocolate with marshmallows.

In Art, we have completed our abstract maps by turning them into stained glass windows using tissue paper. We then put them together to see if we could recreate a giant map. It was interesting working out which pieces looked best next to each other.

In Music, the children have been listening to music and playing percussion instruments with a focus on finding the pulse. They have had to listen really carefully in order to do this.

Finally, we enjoyed wearing Christmas jumpers to raise money for 'Save the Children'. It's been a fantastic term Badgers, you have worked so hard and had a lot of fun. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Brown



Foxes



Class News:

What a wonderful end to our first term as Foxes Class teachers! The last couple of weeks has been full of festive cheer. We've made decorations to go on the school tree, had Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas lunch, and who can forget the fabulous snow!

We performed our class Worship on Compassion to the school, parents, and carers. We really enjoyed learning 'You've got a friend in me.' Afterward, we welcomed our adults back to class for an Egyptian Art lesson where we finished our scrolls. They look fantastic!

In PE, Miss Guest has been really impressed with the progress the children have made in gymnastics. They are holding their balances really well and thinking creatively about how to link jumps, rolls, and balances with a partner.

Mrs. Downing has been very pleased with the work the class has done in Science. They have been learning about different muscles and the skeleton. She thinks we may have some future doctors in our class!

We hope you have a brilliant festive break and look forward to seeing you all in 2023 for more fun!

Miss Guest and Mrs Downing



Lions



Class News:

A wonderful end to 2022. Lions have been busy enjoying the festive weather. They worked together to create a fabulous snowman.

We have completed our first two terms of learning and reflected on how much we have learnt.

In Geography, we had an amazingly thoughtful debate about deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest and carefully considered different points of view.

In History lessons, we have enjoyed learning about the Mayans and speculating on the reasons why they disappeared.

I have been impressed with the improvement in the quality of writing this term. We have finished writing a persuasive piece about why we should plant more flowers.

We enjoyed our Christmas meal and the children looked great in their festive hats.

Have a wonderful Christmas, and see you all in 2023!

Mrs. Hayward



Eagles



Class News:

The Eagles have ended 2022 in fine style, demonstrating their usual brilliant learning behaviours and also continuing to be superb role models right up to the end of what has been a fantastic first two terms in the Eyrle.

There has been much enjoyment and festive cheer within the classroom in the last couple of weeks. We made Christmas decorations to hang on the tree in the school hall, a team of our Eagles decorated our classroom, including setting up our tree, and we had a nice time taking part in Christmas Jumper Day 2022, raising money for 'Save the Children'. We have also enjoyed our recent project in English where we have been studying and learning the Christmas carol 'Good King Wenceslas', deciphering the old English to be able to understand the story and then working in teams to write an extra verse, extending the story to say what happened when Wenceslas and his page reached the poor man's dwelling. Our new verses had to follow the same rules in terms of rhythm and rhyming patterns which was challenging but good fun. We ended this project with everyone singing our verses to check that they met the criteria.

Have a great Christmas, everyone! See you in 2023!

Mr Daniels



Office News:

PARENTPAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

The new menus will be loaded early next week so please wait until after Wednesday 21st December to pre-book your menu choices. You can book the whole term to make it easier or week by week. The deadline will remain at midnight the Thursday before the following week. If you need any help with ParentPay please pop in and see us

WANTED After School Club Leader

We are looking to recruit an After School Club Leader, if you are interested in finding out more about this role, then please speak to the Office or Mr. Thomson.

We are keen to get the After School Club up and running as soon as we have found someone to run it.

The hours will ideally be from 3 pm until 6 pm Monday to Thursday and 3 pm to 5 pm on Friday. We would consider a job share for the right candidates. Term Time only.

Welcome to St Mary's Primary School

A warm welcome to Mrs. Harrison, Teaching Assistant Early Years, who joined us recently, and Miss Woodland, Early Years Apprentice, who will be joining us at the beginning of next term.

Christmas Jumper December 2023

We are planning on holding a Christmas Jumper Event next December, so instead of throwing those outgrown Christmas jumpers out, or donating them to the local

charity shop, please donate them to the school office so we can reuse/redistribute them next year.

Inset Day

A reminder that Tuesday the 3rd of January is Inset day, the Office staff will be training at a different school on inset day but the answering machine and email inbox will be available for messages.

We look forward to welcoming you back into school on Wednesday the 4th.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy Christmas & New Year!

TERMINOLOGY

Following on from MAT Guidance we are no longer using the phrase "Mufti", when describing a day when children come to school wearing their "at home" clothes. This day will now be referred to as "Non-Uniform" day.

This is no longer an acceptable term to use in school because of its connection with the British Army occupation of India. When stationed in India during the height of imperialism, some in the British Army used the phrase to mock the clothing worn by indigenous people when they themselves were not wearing uniform. As such, it is considered outmoded now. It is also a term used to describe certain members of Islamic judiciary.

Dates for your Calendar 2022/23 - Term 2/3

Date	Event	Notes
Saturday 17th December	PTA Panto 2 pm	More information below in the PTA news
Wednesday 4th January	BACK TO SCHOOL - TERM 3	
Wednesday 4th January	Lions Swimming Lessons	

Christian Value

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

The children in Ducklings and Rabbits put on a spectacular performance!

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 homeless family.

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

Big Question

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



Online Safety from the NSPCC



What you need to know about the devices kids might get this Christmas

Game consoles

- **Benefits**
As well as being fun to play, using games consoles could help your child to connect with friends and can also help them learn key technical and social skills.
- **Risks**
There's a risk of them seeing something **inappropriate**. The game might not be suitable for your child's age and ability, or they might be worried by a comment or message from another user. Your child may also be talking to people while playing – this could be someone they don't know.
- **What can you do?**
Before you buy a game for your child, or allow them to play, check the **age rating** for the game. Remember this is a guideline and you should still think about whether this game is suitable for your child. Set up **parental controls** on the console that your child is using. Think about who they might be talking to or messaging while gaming. **Talk to your child** and let them know that if they ever feel uncomfortable they can talk to you or an adult they trust. They may be using a different app to **connect and talk** to people whilst playing games, like Discord, so its important to understand how that works too.

To find out more, go to:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/children-devices-online/>



the national sleep helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am



the national sleep helpline

50%

Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?
In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am

POWERED BY the sleep charity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Furniture Village

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*Survey of 2,000 adults by OnePoll, Aug 2021

Cook it

FREE five week cookery course for parents/carers and children

Join a group session to discover how to make easy, healthy budget friendly recipes in person or online

- Free recipe book and NEW video recipe links
- Support with meal planning and budgeting
- Encouraging children to eat balanced meals
- Ingredients provided or funded with £30 voucher

Upcoming start dates (one session per week);

- Summer holiday course 1st Aug-4th Aug (4 consecutive days) 11-12.30pm at St Michael's Primary, Twerton, Bath.
- Wed 21st Sept-19th Oct, online, 4.30-5.30pm.
- Tues 11th Oct- 15th Nov (no session 25th Oct), 4-5.30pm at Southside Youth and Community Centre, Twerton, Bath.

**Contact the Community Wellbeing Hub to book on
Tel: 0300 247 0050 Email: BATHNES.thehub@hcrgrcaregroup.com**

HENRY Healthy Families programme

Even during this uncertain time, we're still here to help you give your little ones a great start in life.

The HENRY programme is completely **FREE** to join for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 5 years old.



The programme provides everything you need to help your little one get off to a great start.

We cover the 5 following themes across 8 weeks:

- Feeling more confident as a parent
- Physical activities for the little ones
- What children and the whole family eats
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

Each week there is either an online or in-person session. See below for dates.

You'll also receive a free **toolkit** with lots of fantastic resources.

The programme is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other families in a safe environment!

Programme details

Keynsham Childrens Centre -
17 Jan - 14 Mar 10 - 12.30 am

Online -
19 Jan - 16th March 10 .30 - 11.30 am



Get
in touch
to sign up
now!

Contact Us

Bookings on HENRY courses are essential. Contact the Wellbeing Service Hub on 0300 247 0050 or email BATHNES.thehub@nrcgroup.com





St Mary's Festive Science Activities

Why not try some fun, festive stem challenges over the Christmas break. We would love to see what you get up to! Send us your photos on Seesaw.

****Adult supervision required. Please take care. ****

Happy Holidays!

Static Stars and snowmen



- Balloon
- Tin foil
- Tissue
- scissors

- Cut out shapes from the foil or tissue
- Blow up a balloon and rub on your sleeve
- Place the statically charged balloon near the shapes and watch them hop up!

As you rub the balloon, it becomes statically charged and attracts other objects!

Milk Plastic Decorations



- Add vinegar to hot milk
- Allow to cool slightly before passing through a sieve lined with a cloth
- Once the liquid has all dripped through and it has cooled, squeeze the remaining liquid out through the cloth
- Place on paper towel to dry further
- Shape like playdough and put into moulds or cookie cutter shapes and allow to dry for a couple of days

Flying Father Christmas



- Cut a circle shape out of some paper
- Cut a slit into the middle and fold the paper in to make a cone shape
- Secure with sticky tape
- You could decorate it to be a snowman, Santa, Christmas tree or elf
- Place on top of a clean, empty plastic bottle
- Squeeze the sides of the bottle
- Watch Father Christmas fly!

Lava lamp snowman



- Fill a jar or glass $\frac{1}{2}$ full with milk
- Add a deep layer of cooking oil
- Add small bits of fizzy vitamin tablet

The oil floats on the surface as it is less dense and the two liquids do not mix. When you add small pieces of fizzy vitamin tablet, or sodium bicarbonate and citric acid, a chemical reaction releases bubbles of carbon dioxide.