

# ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Southam | December 9<sup>th</sup> 2022



## From the Head...

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of hope, joy, love and peace. We will, this Sunday, be moving into the third week of Advent, also named as Gaudete Sunday. In church this week Father Arul will light the pink candle to show that we are half way through our Advent season. It reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. In school this week we talked about how we could fully prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. The children had a plethora of ideas that would help us all such as: praying more, going to mass, being kind to their friends and family, helping teachers and doing extra special things for their families. During this very busy season, try to take time out from your normal routines and schedules to slow down and really reflect on the real meaning of Christmas and continue to journey through Advent until we arrive on Christmas day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We are constantly monitoring the rise in numbers locally of scarlet fever and Strep A. Please, please, please do have your child checked by a GP if they show any of the symptoms. Lots of letters have gone out to you over the last two weeks, if you are in any doubt please telephone and check first. I also implore you to please let school know if your child is diagnosed as I need to report all cases to the UKHSA and I also need to monitor numbers to keep the school community as safe and as well as I can.

Well what another fabulous week we have had here at St. Mary's, arguably the best school ever! The children in Reception, Year One and Year Two have raised the roof with their final, packed out Nativity performance on Tuesday evening. They have all been absolutely amazing and have worked so hard. I cannot tell you how proud we are of them all. Every child had a part to play and they all played this with determination, passion and confidence. They told us the true meaning of Christmas and may have brought a tear to my eye. Well done to each and every one of them and the superb team of staff who have worked their magic as always on ensuring every child was successful. Next **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December we see the turn of our KS2 children, with a Christmas Carol Concert in the church at 6.00pm.** Please do come along and support our children (and also have a sing along with us).

Today we have had Christmas jumper day, a delicious Christmas dinner and a bumper of an assembly. All children should now have their certificates and wrist bands following their superb fundraising through sports. We have invested this money in active learning for Maths and English using P.E. as a means of teaching them. I will be sending out further correspondence about reading next week. This weekend the children will not have reading books as we have gathered books in this week and are looking at what we need for our children to enjoy reading for pleasure.

Christmas Parties will be in full swing next week and you will have received some information from your child's teacher about this. If you have missed a letter (as we all do) please ask a member of staff and they will fill you in. This is truly a wonderful time of the year to be in school and God willing, next year we will continue to have a school that continues to flourish.

God Bless

Maureen Collier

## RAFFLE TICKETS

### There's still time – JUST!

If you haven't yet returned your books of raffle tickets; stubs, money and unsold tickets should be returned to school **on Monday**.

Online tickets are available from:

[Friends of St Mary's Christmas Raffle 2022](#)

[peoplesfundraising.com](http://peoplesfundraising.com) (The draw closes on December 13<sup>th</sup>)

▶ TO SEE ALL OUR WONDERFUL PRIZES [Click Here](#)

## CLUBS – Book Now for Spring Term

<b>Netball</b>	Mondays	Y3-6	FREE	See Below
<b>Dance</b>	Wednesdays	YR-Y6	£4.50 p/w	Paper Form
<b>Football</b>	Thursdays	Y3-Y6	£4.50 p/w	<a href="#">Online Form</a>

**Netball:** Please contact the office if you don't already attend and would like to start; places will roll forward unless you advise

## Spring Term Music Lessons:

Our new music days and teachers will be:

- **GUITAR:** Monday - Mr Cruz
- **WOODWIND:** Tuesday – Ms Harcroft
- **PIANO/KEYBOARD & VIOLIN:** Friday – Ms Peterson

Spring term is Year 3's turn (after Years 5 & 6 had trumpet this term) for whole class UpBeat lessons learning the fife.

If your child is in Year 2 or above and would like to begin Music Lessons, please contact the office for registration forms.

## HAF – Holiday Activities & Food

This programme is for children in full time education from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive), who receive benefits related free school meals. It offers valuable support to families on lower incomes, giving young people the opportunity to access activities with a healthy meal provision over the main school holidays at Christmas, Easter and Summer.

All details on the HAF programme can be found at <https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf>

**NOTE:** Families now need to fill in a short online form to get their code and can choose to receive it by text or email. Codes now last the whole academic year. If you haven't got internet access, please call the freephone number 0800 408 1558.

## Stars of the Week

Nursery – Cara

Reception – Louie

Year 1 – Cillian

Year 2 – Zakariah

Year 3 – Alfie

Year 4/5 – Delilah & Stephanie

Year 5/6 – Thomas & Mya

EVERY FRIDAY

**Celebration Assembly**

@9:15 School Hall (open to all)

**50p Friday**

Snacks & drinks on sale after school. Bring your pennies to fundraise for FOSM



**Class Christmas Parties**

**TUESDAY:**

**Early Years: YN & YR**

Stay & Play 2PM to 3:20PM

**WEDNESDAY:**

**Key Stage 2: Y3, Y4/5 & Y5/6**

**THURSDAY:**

**Key Stage 1: Y1 & Y2**

**Monday, 12 December**

Year 3 Roman Day

**Monday, 12 December 7-9pm**

Wreath making workshop 2

**Tuesday, December 13**

EYFS Stay & Play  
2PM - 3:20PM

**Wednesday, December 14**

Charlote Park Trip  
Year 1, Reception & Nursery

**Wednesday, December 14**

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert  
Church @ 6.00pm - all welcome  
(children performing to church at 5:30 please)

**Thursday, December 15**

Y3 Class Mass @9:15 Church

**Friday, December 16**

End of Term

**December 19 - January 2**

Christmas Holidays

**Tuesday, January 3**

Teacher Training Day

**Wednesday, January 4**

Back to School  
Spring Term Starts

**PLEASE NOTE:**

DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
More dates and details online at:  
<https://www.stmaryssoutham.org.uk/events/>



This week we have been considering how we like to be treated and how we can treat others. We considered how the cold weather could impact people's and animals' lives. The children noticed birds in the garden searching for food, so we decided to make them some tasty treats! The children scooped out the core of an apple and filled it with the seed and nut mix they had made. We let them set overnight and then hung them outside for the birds to enjoy. The children loved watching the birds eat from their feeders and have become quite the bird spotters!

**Year One - Ms Priestley**

What another amazing week in Year One. I cannot believe what fantastic designers the children are. We have had so much fun making our bridges for the Three Billy Goats Gruff and wow! I think we might have some future engineers on our hands! They are absolutely amazing! I also must add how unbelievably proud I am of all the children and their incredible Nativity performances - my heart was bursting with pride on Tuesday evening, how lucky we are to have such super stars in our school. I can't wait for next week to celebrate all the hard work they have put in to this term. Well done Year One!

**Year Two - Ms Pahnke**

WOW! What superstars we have in Year Two. The children made themselves and all of us proud in Tuesday's evening performance of the Wriggly Nativity. They have been showing off their knowledge of India by writing an information text. They have worked well at gathering the information they need and ensuring they are showing their very best handwriting. In Math we have used the base 10 to consolidate our knowledge of addition and subtraction of two 2-digit numbers. Each day we have been opening a door on our Jesse tree as a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree.

**Year Three - Ms Keith**

As we draw closer to Christmas, we've had another extremely busy week! We have continued to practice our addition and subtraction skills in Maths and in English we rewrote part of Julius Zebra: Rumble with Romans using our own characters that we created. Miss Siddique and I loved reading these stories! In RE we are enjoying our Advent topic and have learnt all about the annunciation of Jesus and the story of the visitation. We really enjoyed writing our postcards to Joseph, as Mary, to tell him all about her visit to Elizabeth. Year Three have also been extremely busy practicing for our Christmas Carol Service. I am so proud of them all and we cannot wait for you all to see it! If the children make any Christmas decorations at home that they would like to bring in, please feel free to send them and we will put them up in our classroom. Thank you for all of your support this term!

**Year Four & Five - Mrs Hawley & Ms Costa**

We are slowly coming to the end of the Autumn term, but we are still working incredibly hard and have had yet another busy week of learning. In RE we are coming to the end of our Advent unit. In our lessons this week, we have been learning about the Jesse Tree; a Jesse Tree is a bit like an Advent calendar but using a daily Bible story about someone in Jesus' family tree to help us prepare spiritually as we move towards Christmas. We have looking at some of Jesus' ancestors, Jacob, Abraham, Mary and Joseph, and learning about some of the important things they did in their lives. In Maths we have been continuing to perfect our 9 times tables and have learnt a nifty trick to help us remember them easily - ask your child to show you! In English, we have been developing our knowledge of the past tense and singular and plural forms and trying to use these correctly in our writing. Today, as part of our Art lessons we've been making coiled clay pots and can't wait for you to see the finished products!

**Year Five & Six - Mrs Banat-Rinz**

This week has been filled with Christmas cheer preparing for next week's Carol Service in Church. Everyone has been singing their hearts out and you are all in for a real treat next Wednesday evening. In RE, we have been learning more about Advent and have written fabulous prayers and "recipes for Advent". The highlight was most definitely today, where we shared our own hand written and illustrated Christmas inspired stories with all the children in year 1 - putting everyone into the Christmas spirit.

**JUMP TO IT!**

You all looked amazing in your jumpers + Christmas accessories today; thank you. All your £1s will go to government match funding. [read more](#)



**EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOUR**

YN: JJ	Y3: Elsa
YR: Lauren	Y4/5: Mason & Tami
Y1: Frederick	Y5/6: Lexie & Jessica
Y2: Thomas	

**LUNCHTIME AWARD**

YN: Freddie	Y3: Eliza
YR: Poppy	Y4/5: Charlie & Dougie
Y1: Nero	Y5/6: Hamish & Affiea
Y2: Ella-Rose	

**HOUSE POINTS**

- St Andrew 255
- St David 203
- St Patrick 180
- St George 162

