



Our school is a friendly and vibrant community, where all of God's children flourish and gain the knowledge, wisdom and skills needed to care about themselves, their community and their world.

Friday 15th December 2023 Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

And so, Term 2 draws to a close and the holidays are here. What an incredible 7 weeks it has been! Remembrance Sunday, Odd Socks Day, Children in Need, Musical Madness, Nativities, Carol Concerts, School Discos, Craft Afternoons, Santa's Grotto, The Pantomime, Dance Shows, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day – to name but a few! How on earth did we pack all of that in, along with all the Reading, Writing and Maths we've been doing?

We have made so many wonderful memories together: one of my personal favourites being Mr Whitworth's DJ set when the whole dinner hall turned into a rave as he pumped up the volume. There was so much joy and laughter and the children couldn't believe that they actually had permission to get up and dance in the middle of lunch!

Speaking of joy, I've had the privilege of showing around some more visitors this week who have all remarked on how happy the children are. St Mary's has been a very special place to be these past few weeks. And in the Forest School, children have been making camp fires, running assault courses, climbing trees and building camps and the school site has been alive with laughter and excited voices. In the classrooms, there have been class parties, poetry recitals, mini cinemas and lots of festive singing: it has been magical to walk around the site, capturing the growing anticipation that Advent brings.

But while there is a huge amount of joy, there are also a couple of sad farewells. We are all so sorry to be saying 'Goodbye' to Miss Ryan as she leaves us this Christmas. She has been an absolutely fantastic Pastoral Leader in the school and I'm sure many of you will join with me in wishing her all the best for the future. She has worked tirelessly to support our children through all their ups and downs and she will be sorely missed by us all.

We also have to say a brief farewell to Mrs. Whalley who is very close to having her baby. Once again, I'm sure you'll join with me in wishing her a safe delivery for her precious one and to ensure she gets lots of rest before and after the birth. We can't wait to meet her little one.

Speaking of babies, we turn our attention to the baby at the heart of the Christmas Story and thank God for baby Jesus who came to bring much-needed peace to a world full of conflict and unrest. Baby Jesus - given to us as the Prince of Peace.

And so, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, full of fun and joy - and we'll see you again in the New Year.

Happy Christmas Everyone!

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of baby Jesus.

Help us to be grateful for everything this Christmas and think of people who don't have much. Help us to share what we have.

Amen

Year 4 Boys