



**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 17th November 2023**

### **Headteacher's Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we have packed an awful lot into a week and have had so much fun. It all began with hundreds of odd socks as we took time to celebrate our differences and to be grateful for all the wonderful friendships we have within the school. As Friendship is one of our school values, we have focused this week on some of the qualities that make a good friend and have considered how we can be fantastic friends to all the people around us.

Personally, I have had the privilege of seeing the children displaying these qualities of friendship all over the school. As one child walks through the door at the start of the day, another one runs over to them to give them a hug. As one child starts to search in their pencil case for a decent pencil, another one hands over a sharpened one straight over. As one child falls over in the playground, another one rushes to pick them up. All around the school, you can't help but bump into collections of children being so kind and so caring.

Not only am I seeing wonderful acts of kindness, but I'm hearing the joyous sound of Nativity songs being sung, ushering in the season of Christmas. The children are learning the lyrics and the Christmas story is coming to life once again.

Speaking of singing, the Young Voices Choir is sounding amazing and another lasting memory of the week was seeing how happy it made our wonderful Site Manager, Mr Reeve, as he listened to the dulcet tones of the children as they sang 'Walking on Sunshine' with Katrina and the Waves and 'On the Moon' with the Police.

And finally, on Wednesday the Year 3 children welcomed Chris and Harriet from Ootiboo to St Mary's. They came in to work with the children in Year 3 and spoke about, 'Why Money Matters,' a book written for children by Deborah Meaden from the 'Dragons' Den.' They talked about earning money, saving money and spending money, and it was so lovely to hear them planning the next 20 years of their lives as they returned to class!

Speaking of money, we are aware that there are a number of wonderful things taking place in the coming days and many of them are asking for a donation. As a number of us are a little tight on money, we want you to know that your donations, no matter how small, are greatly appreciated and gratefully received. And so today, on Children in Need Day, the children of St Mary's would like to join me in thanking you all for everything you do to support our school.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone,

Amanda



### **Prayer of the Week**

Dear God,

Thank you for family and friends, they help us not to feel lonely and are there when we need them. Please help us to be better friends and to help the homeless to have water and food.

Help us be kind to our friends and family.

Amen

Jack Year 4, Arthur P Year 3, Elijah Year 3

# CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION

The PTFA are holding a Christmas decoration competition.

We would like your family to create a decoration which can be hung on a tree. The competition will be judged by Mrs Milton on Wednesday, 29th November.

The winner from each year group will receive a £5 book voucher. The top 3 decorations from each year group and the Nursery will then take pride of place on the school Christmas tree in the KS2 Hall.

Please can we ask that entries are not brought in before 27th November

THERE ARE LOTS OF CREATIVE AND INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET.



# St Mary's Dance Club

The children at dance club are raising money for t-shirts that they can wear to competitions and shows. To raise some money, the children and the PTFA are running a raffle to win the brilliant Elf seen below in the picture with the children. Raffle tickets are a £1 each.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please pop £1 in a named envelope and drop it in to the school office. We will allocate your child a number and let the winner know after the draw. If you wish to purchase more than one ticket, please state on the front of the envelope.

The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 7th December. Thank you for your support.



## Dates for your Diary

Monday 13th November	Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 15th November	Small Uniform Swap - KS2 Hall at 2.45pm
Friday 17th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 21st November	Year 2 Showcase Learning
Wednesday 22nd November	Flu vaccinations for pupils
Friday 1st December	Tag Day to raise money for the Christmas Grotto
Tuesday 5th December	KS1 Christmas Disco at 3:30pm
Thursday 7th December	Nursery Christmas Concert KS1 Hall at 2.15pm
Thursday 7th December	National Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	YR Nativity – KS2 Hall at 9.30am
Thursday 7th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Disco at 3.30pm
Thursday 7th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Disco at 5.00pm
Friday 8th December	Y1 Nativity – KS2 Hall at 2.15pm
Monday 11th December	Explorers Christmas Craft session at 1.45pm
Tuesday 12th December	Little Learners Christmas Crafts 1.45pm
Tuesday 12th December	Adventurers Christmas Craft session at 1.45pm
Wednesday 13th December	Whole school trip to the pantomime
Thursday 14th December	Y2 Carol Service – KS1 Hall at 10.00am
Thursday 14th December	KS2 Carol Service at Harbour Church at 1.45pm
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Dance Show (Dance Club) at 4.00pm
Thursday 14th December	Little Learners Christmas 1.45pm
Friday 15th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 2nd January	First day of Term 3