



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 1st December 2023

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas Tree is up in the hall and we are now officially in the season of Advent. Advent is a time for fresh hope and for a movement towards a beginning. It's also a time for a little bit of extra chocolate as we open our first window on our Advent calendars. It really is a wonderful time of the year.

And indeed, lots of wonderful things have happened at school this week and there is a lot to talk about. First of all, on Tuesday the Brazil Class had an Art Workshop with the very talented artists at Glassworks. The children learnt all about still life and the joy of layering, using different mediums and they produced some fantastic Art. The ladies running the workshop were so impressed with the children's focus and obvious enjoyment. Thank you to Miss Rose for organising this and to all the adults that made this wonderful experience happen.

Then, on Wednesday, Year 1 went to the Harbour Church for their RE lesson. The fabulous Mary Jane helped to make this happen. The children learnt all about Advent and the importance of the days running up to Christmas and then they enjoyed a whole selection of activities as they moved from one to another. The children were brilliant and the staff were so proud of them.

Then on Thursday, it was Musical Madness Day and it was a truly special day! There were so many pop stars and musicians in our midst - and that was just the Staff! The children who performed in the Talent Show were magnificent and the Young Voice singers who sang their hearts out all day were fantastic. We also have to give a special mention to the expert icing of the cakes by Mrs Cotter and Miss Layton, who are both now auditioning for the British Bake Off! Thank you again to all the adults that helped to make this unforgettable occasion happen and for making this such a fun-filled day for the children. Kids, The Voice, watch out!

And so, we finish off the week with a Tag Day for the Christmas Grotto, which is coming up soon. We are fully aware that there is one event after the other at the moment and it can feel a little overwhelming for a parent or carer to remember everything. We also know that we don't all have endless funds and so we just want to underline again that we don't want your child to be excluded from any activity because of money. You can just put a small donation or a short note in a sealed envelope asking for free admission and that can be your child's ticket to any activity.

We don't want anything to get in the way of making this one of the best Christmases so far at St Mary's.

Have a fun-filled, festive weekend and remember, hope is the one thing that can get us through the darkest of times.

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

Thank you for these days before Christmas and thank you for creating Santa and the event of Christmas.

Please let everyone enjoy every part of Christmas with their family and friends.

Amen

Please check the diary for all the Christmas events that are coming up in the next few weeks.



St. Mary's Primary Academy

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

The children in Year 1 are requesting donations of clean, fully-working and complete toys and games to redistribute to families in need this festive season.



Please send donations in with your children or deliver them to the school office by Monday 4th December at the latest.



Preloved Christmas Jumpers



If you have any preloved children's Christmas jumpers that you no longer need, we would love to have them.

Thank you



St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy

Have you chosen a school for September?

Before you do, come and see our wonderful school and all that we offer, including:

- A Huge Forest School
 - Large Grounds and Space for Play
 - Fun and Meaningful Learning
- Outstanding Reception Learning Environment

Please contact our school office to book in an individual tour of our school with our Head Teacher, Amanda Wolfram.

Contact Number: (01303) 251390

Friendship

Compassion

Service

Forgiveness

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5 th December	KS1 Christmas Party at 15:30 in KS2 Hall
Tuesday 5 th December	Year R Christmas Party in Classroom at 15:30
Thursday 7 th December	Nursery Christmas Concert – KS1 Hall at 14:15
Thursday 7 th December	National Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7 th December	YR Nativity – KS2 Hall at 09:30
Thursday 7 th December	Years 3 & 4 Christmas Disco at 15:30 in KS2 Hall
Thursday 7 th December	Years 5 & 6 Christmas Disco at 17:00 in KS2 Hall
Friday 8 th December	Year 1 Nativity – KS2 Hall at 14:15
Monday 11 th December	Explorers' Christmas Craft Session at 13:45
Tuesday 12 th December	Little Learners' Christmas Crafts at 13:45
Tuesday 12 th December	Adventurers' Christmas Craft Session at 13:45
Wednesday 13 th December	Whole School Trip to the Pantomime
Thursday 14 th December	Year 2 Carol Service in KS1 Hall at 10:00
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Carol Service at Harbour Church at 13:45
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dance Show (Dance Club) at 16:00 in KS2 Hall
Thursday 14 th December	Little Discoverers' Christmas Crafts at 13:45
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15 th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	First day of Term 3

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.

