



St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter
21st December 2022
Term 2



Principal Comments

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another wonderful term has flown by and the children have left for Christmas happy and ready for a break. The staff too! What a busy and brilliant term it has been. I must say a huge thank you to all of the team. We had lots of poorly children and staff this term, but the school was still running smoothly and all of our Christmas excitement and exhibitions continued.

Having missed last year's festivities due to having the big C (Covid), I was really looking forward to this year's. They were all an absolute delight and the children were phenomenal. Their confidence in front of an audience always impresses and watching their proud faces beam at their parents in the audience is an absolute joy. They were so well attended too, with a full house for all performances, as well as the Years 2 and 6 curriculum exhibitions. Your attendance at these events makes it so much more real and meaningful for the children and we all thank you for giving up your time to join us.

We must say a huge thank you to our PTA and Mrs Harrison, along with her elves for the wonderful Christmas grotto. This has evolved from a few small gifts to a full on pantomime in school. The children were in hysterics as Mrs Harrison led Mr. Warner and other staff through a wonderful piece of ad lib drama. Incredible talent! Aladdin was also a real treat. I am so pleased the weather held off and we were able to hot foot it up to the theatre. The children were superb and all had a wonderful time. The kitchen staff need a huge thanks too as they stayed on later than usual to ensure we could all eat a hot dinner.

To make our Christmas all that little extra special, we were also blessed with Mrs Milton coming in for our Christmas dinner. The children and staff loved seeing her. She ate with the youngest children and then snuck another Christmas dinner in with the Key Stage 2 children! We are hoping to see her a little more frequently as she continues to get well. I know there are continued well wishes and prayers being said for her.

This really is a tremendous school with the hardest working team I've known. Now we can have a short rest over the Christmas period to rejuvenate for the next few terms here at the school! On behalf of the governing body, staff and children, have a lovely Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

God bless you all.

Mr. Trevor North



School Term Dates 2022/2023

Term 1	
Staff Development Day	01/09/2022
Staff Development Day	02/09/2022
Start of Term 1 (1 st day for Children)	05/09/2022
End of Term 1	21/10/2022
Term 2	
Start of Term 2	31/10/2022
End of Term 2	16/12/2022
Term 3	
Staff Development Day	03/01/2023
Start of Term 3 (1 st day for Children)	04/01/2023
End of Term 3 (Last Day for Children)	09/02/2023
Staff Development Day	10/02/2023
Term 4	
Start of Term 4	20/02/2023
End of Term 4	06/04/2023
Term 5	
Start of Term 5	17/04/2023
End of Term 5	26/05/2023
Term 6	
Start of Term 6	12/06/2023
End of Term 6	21/07/2023
Staff Development Day	24/07/2023

PE Kit

We regard uniform as an important part of our school. It creates a sense of identity and belonging and we expect all families to do their best to co-operate with our policy. The PE kit is as follows:

- Navy School Hoodie
- White School T-shirt
- Navy shorts or jogging bottoms
- Appropriate trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor PE (no heeled trainers)

KS1 will need plimsolls for indoor PE. It would be appreciated if the parents of young children could provide the type of plimsoll which has an elastic tongue, or alternatively substitute elastic for laces in the traditional plimsoll. A simple bag (with name on the outside please) should be provided so that the plimsolls may be left on your child's cloakroom peg. Drawstring bags are available to buy from the school office.

All clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name and it is worthwhile checking from time to time to see that the marking is still discernible.

The wearing of jewellery in school is strongly discouraged due to health and safety implications. Watches and studded earrings can be worn, but all jewellery must be removed before any physical activity.

Year 2 - Young Leaders

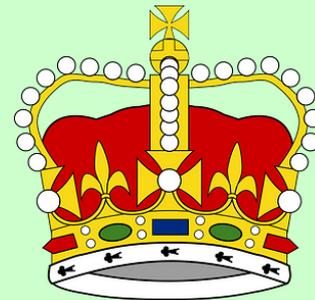
The Young Leaders topic in Year 2 this term was loneliness. They children decided that they wanted to make Christmas packages to send out into the local community to spread some Christmas cheer. In their packages were Christmas cards, tree decorations and cookies.



Extra Bank Holiday Monday

An extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 has been announced for the Coronation of King Charles III.

The school will be closed on this date.



Nativities



Christmas Grotto

A couple of weeks ago, the children battled through a snow storm to visit Santa's Grotto. They were greeted by number 1 elf who soon had them all singing along to Christmas songs. Elf number 2 turned up looking slightly dishevelled, his costume was back to front and he wore his belt as a hat! Another naughty elf thought it would be funny to spray the children with some water and throw a few snowballs. We also welcomed another VIP to the Grotto, the amazing Mrs Milton. We were all so pleased to see her and delighted that she was able to come along. The children really did have such an amazing time, it was fantastic to see the joy on their faces. It takes a lot of people to make events like this so special for the children. We would like to thank Mrs Harrison, Mr Warner, Miss Ryan, Mrs Best, Miss Rose, Mr Whitworth, Mrs Haines and of course, Santa himself! An extra big thank you to the PTA for wrapping up all of the presents and to all of you that donated to the school funds to make this possible.



Year 6 Residential to Bewl Water

What a great week! Both classes had a fantastic time at Bewl Water despite some very wet weather. Lots of fun activities, lots of rain, lots of mud, good food and good company. From canoeing, where they played some games and got very wet splashing each other to braving the climbing tower, throwing axes and archery as well as some exciting games and woodland challenges, there was something for everyone to enjoy.



Year 1

This term, the children in Year 1 have been learning about how humans grow from babies through the different stages of life, discovering their family trees and looking at how childhood in the 1950s was very different from today. To celebrate our learning, the children invited their grandparents and other family members to come in and see their learning and play board games. The children really enjoyed learning about the different kinds of games that were played before electronic toys and TVs were around and it was so special to see so many grown-ups and children playing together in such a warm and friendly atmosphere to end the term. Thank you to everybody who showed up and made it such a lovely occasion.



International News

Classes across the school and the Global Councillors have had a very busy few weeks with their International work. Our annual World Weather Watch project, during International Education Week in November, had Years 1 and 4, Tiger Class and Forest School all taking part with schools as far afield as New Zealand to Jamaica.

Tiger class had a webinar with our partner schools in Tunisia and Moldova, where they showcased the weather symbols they had made, which they hung on branches collected from our Forest School. They found out that it was really cold in Moldova but exceptionally hot in Tunisia, with forest fires this summer, whereas we had a great deal of rain, evidence of which was in the rain gauges Year 1 had made out of recycled bottles. Pupils in Bangladesh and Taiwan sent us artwork and photos and decided they preferred cooler weather.

Year 2 enjoyed learning a Rajastani Dance, directed by the excellent dance teachers and pupils at DAV BRS Ludhiana India during a Zoom meeting.

Year 1 classes and the Global Councillors made beautiful Christmas cards which have been sent to over 20 countries around the world, let's hope they all arrive before next Christmas!

Year 2 made snowmen cards as a 'thank you' to India and Year 4's cards are on their way to Bangladesh and Ukraine and Tiger's class to Moldova. So far, we've received cards from Greece, Turkey and Moldova.

Ukraine

It was very special to receive work and photos for World Weather Watch from our partner in Ukraine, where it is below freezing and frequently there is no power for heating or lighting. The children, when they hear the air raid sirens, have to rush to the underground shelters and try to work by candle light or torches.

Our Year 1 children in their Nativity play 'Children of the World' included the Ukraine this year with the Ukrainian children wishing us all 'Happy Christmas' in Ukrainian!

We have had a very successful start Internationally, to this academic year.

