



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 24th November 2023

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

So, this week the Christmas Lights were switched on in town and some of our wonderful children from Year 1 to 3 sang their hearts out, attracting quite a crowd. A big Thank You to Mrs. Pittock and Mrs. Best who organised the event and were very proud of each and every one of them.

Speaking of Christmas, Relf the Elf has been making a few appearances around the school and getting up to mischief; he's been interrupting your child's learning, listening into teachers' chit-chat in the Staffroom and he even attempted to steal some of Year 1's food at lunch in the Dinner Hall!

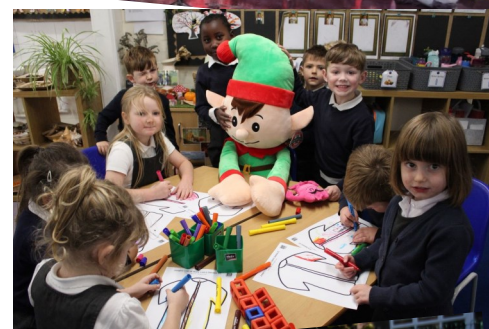
The Dinner Hall also hosted a fantastic exhibition of work from the Year 2 children as they displayed their learning about Neil Armstrong, Rosa Parks and Vincent Van Gogh - to name but a few. Thank you to all the Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents who came along and made this such a special time for the children.

The children have all been completing assessments this week and as I've walked around the school, there has been a wonderful sense of peace and calm. All the visitors have commented on this and have been so impressed with the children's work ethic. Also, the nurses administering the flu vaccines commented on what a lovely staff and what a fantastic and well-behaved group of children we have here at St Mary's. It made me very proud.

And so, as we draw ever closer to Christmas, we have been reflecting on some of the main themes of the Christmas message. This week, we have been thinking about this concept of peace on earth (like the angels sang) and remembering that while storms may rage around us, we can be at peace in our souls. Peace is so needed in our world right now and we pray for peace in all the countries currently at war. We also pray for peace in our homes, where tensions can mount with financial pressures, health issues, dark days and nights and unsettled weather. Finally, we pray for peace in our school, in our classrooms, our friendships and our conversations.

Have a lovely, peaceful weekend,

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

Lord, we ask You for peace: peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, especially when it feels like the world all around us spins out of control. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so we might truly have a very merry Christmas, even in a not-so-merry kind of world.

Amen.

Year 6 Children

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

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.



Are you musically talented?!



We are holding a 'Music Madness' day at school on Thursday 30th November. There will be musical events happening all day including a sponsored sing (for the Young Voices choir), a 'stop, drop and sing' in each class, and a music themed cake sale after school... so don't forget your coins! In addition, there will be a musical talent show happening in the afternoon which YOU can get involved in!

Do you play an instrument? Can you sing in front of an audience? Can you rap or beat box? What about body percussion?! If so, we need you!

You will need to prepare a snippet of your act, ready to audition to your teacher next week (speak to your class teacher to find out which day). They will then choose one act per class who will perform at the talent show in front of the whole school on Thursday 30th in the afternoon. Soloists or groups welcome!



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Dates for your Diary

Friday 1st December	Tag Day to raise money for the Christmas Grotto
Tuesday 5th December	KS1 Christmas Disco at 15:30
Thursday 7th December	Nursery Christmas Concert KS1 Hall at 14:15
Thursday 7th December	National Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 7th December	YR Nativity – KS2 Hall at 09:30
Thursday 7th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Disco at 15:30
Thursday 7th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Disco at 17:00
Friday 8th December	Y1 Nativity – KS2 Hall at 14:15
Monday 11th December	Explorers Christmas Craft session at 13:45
Tuesday 12th December	Little Learners Christmas Crafts 13:45
Tuesday 12th December	Adventurers Christmas Craft session at 13:45
Wednesday 13th December	Whole school trip to the pantomime
Thursday 14th December	Y2 Carol Service – KS1 Hall at 10:00
Thursday 14th December	KS2 Carol Service at Harbour Church at 14:45
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Dance Show (Dance Club) at 16:00
Thursday 14th December	Little Learners Christmas 13:45
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

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.

