



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 8th December 2023

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, Christmas is fast approaching and all sorts of wonderful activities are in full swing. This week we have had the opportunity to strut our funky stuff at the KS1 and KS2 discos and the children have looked fantastic in their outfits. Year R, not to be outdone, had a wonderful Christmas party with all sorts of fun and games and the Christmas Jumpers have had their first airing on National Christmas Jumper Day.

And then it was time for the wonderful Year R Nativity, which was absolutely charming. They all looked and sounded amazing and we are all very proud of them. Let's never forget what an important step in their development performing in front of a crowd is – and how it will build their confidence too. Then I'd like to give a big shout out to the Nursery Children for their wonderful Carol Service: what a fantastic show they put on! Another very proud moment for us all! I loved using my Golden Ticket to gain entrance – just like in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

And speaking of chocolate, I hope that you are all remembering to open your advent calendars every day and that unlike some of our children, you haven't consumed the whole lot! It's such a good opportunity for the children to learn about delayed gratification – which apparently, according to research, makes them more resilient in the future.

And so, we end the week with the wonderful Year 1 Nativity and some reflections. Once again, Year 1 were absolutely fabulous and sang their little hearts out and they brought a little more magic to our Christmas experience at St Mary's this year. And on the theme of magic, it has been fantastic to see the older children supporting the younger ones this week at their school discos and I've had the privilege too of seeing siblings really looking out for one another and walking around the hall hand in hand or arm in arm. My heart burns with pride at the level of heartfelt care and the strong bonds I see all around the school. There is so much love at St Mary's – but especially at Christmas.

So take time this weekend to celebrate your wonderful children and look for all the good around you that you can see. They are a credit to you.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

We pray that you will bless all who gaze on the Nativity Scene this week and next.

As we look at the family of Jesus, help us to be grateful for our own families, some of whom live on the other side of the street and some of whom live on the other side of the world.

Amen

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

Dates for your Diary

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 the KS1 Hall at 10:00
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Carol Service at The Harbour Church at 13:45
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Dance Show (Dance Club) in the KS2 Hall at 16:00
Thursday 14 th December	Little Learners' Christmas Crafts at 13:45
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15 th December	Last Day of Term 2
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	First Day of Term 3



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