



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**

**Principal Comments**

Lighting our third Advent candle this week has given us time to think about the preparations for Christmas and the joy that this preparation brings. Through our worship, we will also think about the joy and love Mary must have felt knowing the importance of the gift she was carrying for the world. Christmas can be full of expectation and at times this can hide the importance of Christmas. The true gift of Christmas is not the pile of presents under the tree but the celebration of Jesus and all that he brought to the world. It is important to take a step back and enjoy the preparations and ensure our children learn to value this.

In all of the classrooms around the school, there is a growing sense of anticipation and expectation. They are full with shining examples of high quality work and growing displays of tinsel and glitter. The hall, where we gather for worship, has a fantastic tree decorated with love and kindness for the school and the staffroom is filling up with Christmas messages.

Our curriculum for the remainder of the term will focus on Christmas around the world. The pupils will be learning how different cultures and communities share this wonderful time of the year. We have a busy end to the term too. This week alone we have some Christmas craft fairs, the Year 6 photography exhibition all week at the Lilford Gallery, the Year 5 Victorian Exhibition at The Grand Hotel and the Year 4 production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at The Leas Cliff Hall. To top this off, we have our Christmas Jumper day on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and The Barking Dog Theatre company visiting. We are truly blessed to have such hardworking and motivated staff who are all shaping these enriching and immersive experiences for our pupils and making education real and purposeful.

This year has been a truly fantastic year for St. Mary's with so many good things happening. Our Facebook page is a narrative of this excellence and something to look back on as we head in to the New Year in January.

Thank you all so much for your support and kind messages.

On behalf of our governors, pupils and staff, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. T.M. North (NPQH)

**Santa Fun Run**

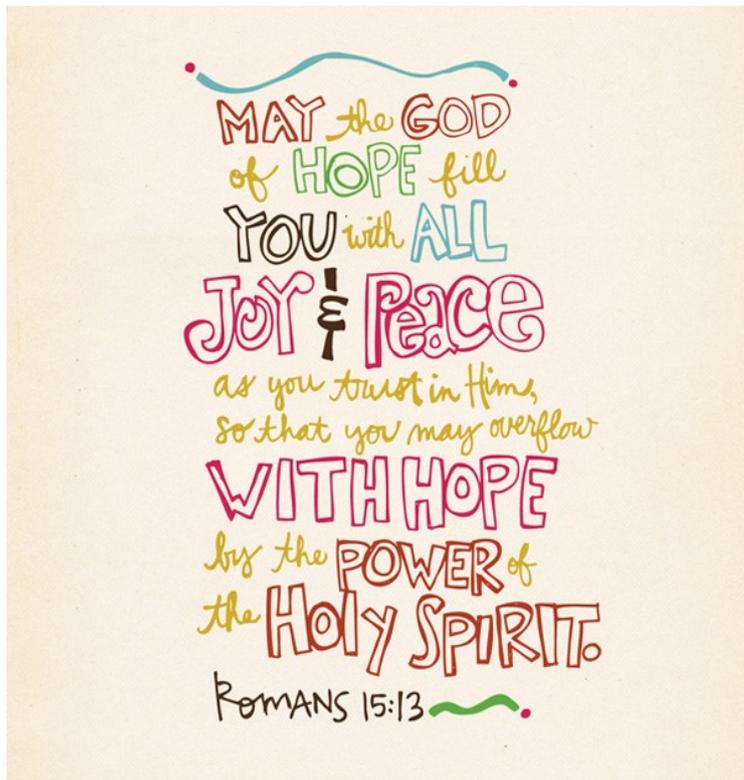
Well done to our pupils who took part in the Santa Fun run on Sunday.



**WELL DONE!!!**

One of our Y6 pupils is celebrating a fantastic achievement. Finley has recently been picked to represent Kent in football. He will join other boys from around the county and I am certain we will hear much more of Finley in the future. We are all very proud of him and all of our pupils who are achieving great things outside of school.

Good luck Finley!



### **Christmas Events**

Tuesday 20th December—Year 1 Nativity will take place at 9.15 am

Tuesday 20th December—Year 2 Nativity will take place at 2.15 pm

Tuesday 20th December—KS2 Carol Service will take place at St. Mary & St. Eanswythe Church at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 21st December—Reception/Nursery Nativity will take place at 9.15 am and 2.15 pm



### **Christmas Jumper Day**

On Friday 15th December, if children wish, they can wear a Christmas Jumper instead of their normal school jumpers (all other uniform should be worn).

### **End of Term**

The children finish school at the normal time on Wednesday 21st December and should return on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

### **Christmas Fayre**

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday after school in both the Junior and Infant Halls. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **School Dinners**

As next week is a three day week, Caterlink are serving fish and chips on Wednesday next week—21st (instead of Friday). If you have ordered and paid for your child to have a Xmas dinner, if they do not usually have school meals, then this takes place next Tuesday (20th). Please make sure all dinner money is sent in at the beginning of the week with payment of £2.05 per meal in a named envelope. Thank you.