



# SAINT MARY'S RC PRIMARY ACADEMY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## DIARY DATES

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Y5 Swimming

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Blackfriars Theatre – Peter Pan

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Y3 Class Liturgy – parents' welcome 9:00am

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 Carol Concert – parents' welcome 1:45pm

**END OF TERM 2**

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**Term 3 begins**

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Y2 Swimming

After school clubs start

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Y2 Swimming

Closing date for EYFS 2024 applications

### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Y2 Swimming

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

## SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's RC Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all pupils. Each child's welfare is of up most importance. **Safeguarding is everyone's business.** If you have any safeguarding concerns, St Mary's RC Primary Academy Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs L Gleed-Thornley (Headteacher)**. Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are **Mrs Williams (Deputy Headteacher)**, **Mrs Brader (SENCo/KS1 Leader)** and **Miss Spikings (Administrator)**. Our Safeguarding Governor is **Ms M Lewis**. Further Safeguarding information can be found on our school website under the 'Welcome' tab.

### e-Safety – National Online Safety

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

**What parents need to know about The Online Safety Act**

<https://rb.gy/1sa69f>

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and memorable Christmas and thank you for your continued support in 2023.

### Christmas Jumpers – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

All children can wear their Christmas jumpers over their normal school uniform, KS2 do not need to wear their blazer.

### Y3 Class Liturgy

Y3 will be holding their Class Liturgy on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am, all parents welcome.

### Swimming Term 3

Swimming lessons for Year 2 will start on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January and will continue until the end of Term 3. Please look out for a letter emailed this week.

### Afterschool Clubs

Please note all after school clubs will finish this week. Lent Term clubs will start week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. A letter will be emailed out shortly.

### Staffing News

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news of my departure from my position here at St Mary's after nine wonderful years of service. Leaving this community that I've been a part of for so long has not been an easy decision. Over the years, I have had the privilege of getting to know your children, witnessing their growth, and being a part of their educational journey. It has been an incredible experience, and the memories I have created here will always hold a special place in my heart. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! Mrs Cregan.



**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**

### Attendance w/c 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Above National Average    National Average    Below National Average

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
96.9%	90%	94.1%	98.7%	90.3%	98%	98%	95.1%

Our attendance target is 97.5%

Well done to Year 3 who had the highest attendance with 98.7%

*"We love, we learn, we grow; walking with faith in the light of the Lord"*

### Christmas Fair

We would like to thank all our parents, families and friends who attended our Christmas Fair last week. A huge thank you also goes to all the staff, governors and our newly appointed PTA for their hard work in making this event such a success. We would also like to thank all the local businesses that generously donated gifts towards our raffle. Thank you for all the positive comments and feedback we have received, this means a lot to staff who have worked tirelessly over the past few months.

### KS1 and the Travelling Crib

As the season of Advent begins families across KS1 will be taking part in a special project called "The Travelling Crib". This is to help us remember the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem, and as a family take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas. Your child will have the opportunity to take the travelling crib home for one night to set up, switch the candle on, say a prayer, read the Christmas story and sing a song together. We would like to hear about your experience of the Travelling crib in your home, so please complete the sheet by attaching a photograph or asking your child to draw a picture and write about how you shared the crib in your home. We look forward to hearing all about it. Don't forget to return the crib the next day so it can be passed on to another child.

	<b>Well done to all the children who received their Shining Lights Awards on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	
<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>Miran</b> has been chosen as Shining Light this week for working hard on his letter formation. He has also impressed us with his enthusiastic singing during our Nativity rehearsals, as well as demonstrating a strong sense of touch during an experiment in our science lesson. Well done Miran!	<b>Neyha</b> has been chosen as Shining Light this week for her fantastic effort at diary writing in English. She wrote in the first person and used the past tense to write her diary entry. She also demonstrated a fantastic knowledge through her retelling of the Nativity story in RE. Well done Neyha.
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>Elaine</b> has been chosen for always trying her hardest in her learning. She listens to adults instructions well and joins in with all lessons and will happily work with her peers. She is a great role model at St Mary's.	<b>Zikora</b> has been chosen for trying really hard to improve his learning. He always likes to share his answers with the class and is very knowledgeable in our RE lessons. He makes everyone in Year 2 smile.
<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>Angel</b> has been voted by Year 3 as Shining Light this week because she has settled extremely well in to Year 3. She has made friends with everyone, she is kind, fun and lets everyone join in her games. Welcome to Saint Mary's Angel!	<b>Tolu</b> has been chosen as Shining Light, by the adults in Year 3, for showing an improvement in concentration and listening during lessons. During English, we have been learning to write instructions and he has taken care to include time conjunctions and imperative verbs to improve his sentences. Well done Tolu!
<b>YEAR 4</b>	<b>Joyal</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by the adults in Year 4. He has been chosen because he has found a new love for maths and has worked really well in his lessons this week, especially multiplying and dividing by 7. Joyal has persevered when he found it slightly tricky and worked independently. Keep up the good work!	<b>Tomasz</b> has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by the children in Year 4. He has been chosen because his classmates say that he is a good friend towards them, shows kindness to others and always puts others before himself to make sure they are happy. He is a brilliant role model to Year 4 and the rest of Saint Mary's. Tomasz, well done!
<b>YEAR 5</b>	<b>Feji</b> has been chosen as a shining light this week for her brilliant effort and contributions during our planetarium visit. She listened extremely well and asked some brilliant questions. Well done Feji.	<b>Kevin</b> has been chosen as a shining light this week for his brilliant effort and contributions during our planetarium visit. He listened extremely well and asked some brilliant questions. Well done Kevin.
<b>YEAR 6</b>	<b>Crystallena</b> has been chosen by the pupils in class for her cheerfulness and positive attitude towards her learning. One pupil commented that when Crystallena smiles it lights up the room. Crystallena is also a good artist and her art cheers others up as well. She always has nice things to say about people and her classmates enjoy spending time with her on the playground.	<b>Ksawery</b> has been chosen by his teachers for focusing on his writing over the past two weeks. He wrote a brilliant and moving story based on the video - The Piano. It was about an old man that enjoyed playing the piano and as he did, it brought back memories (both happy and sad.) <i>'As the man played his heart pounded like thunder and he remembered his lovely wife...'</i>

### CLASS NEWS

#### EYFS

Wow! I cannot believe we are almost at the end of our first full term in EYFS! It's not time to slow down just yet though - we have a very busy week ahead with the pantomime, dress rehearsals and our nativity performance! In phonics, we will be using the sounds we have learnt this term to practise reading and writing CVC words. In maths, we will be consolidating our learning from the term, focussing on positional language and properties of 2D shapes. Finally, in RE, we will be completing our learning around the story of the first Christmas.

#### Year 1

This week in maths we will be adding within 20, including counting on and adding two values together. In English we will be exploring sense poems. In RE we will learn about the Christingle. In DT we will be completing our hand toy puppets. We can't wait to share our Nativity play with you on Thursday and Friday afternoon.

#### Year 2

This week in Year 2 we are writing our diary entries in English. We will be pretending to be Neil Armstrong going to the moon and we will be using time conjunctions to order our events and feelings to make it more interesting. In maths we are going to be learning about 2D and 3D shapes, their names as well as their different properties such as edges and vertices. In RE we will be describing the birth of Jesus and how important it was. We will be doing this by creating our own stained glass windows. We are also going to be performing our play this week and we are all very excited to show you all how great we are.

### Year 3

This week in maths, we are proving that the equals sign shows the whole is equal to the sum of the parts, and finding missing values in addition and subtraction calculations. In our English lessons, we are planning and writing a set of instructions based on the picture book 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth?' In RE, we are describing some feelings and actions of those involved in the Nativity story and giving reasons for some of their thoughts and actions. In science, we are identifying animals that have no skeletons, endoskeletons and exoskeletons, and in history we are describing the purpose of a roundhouse. We also have the pantomime to look forward to on Tuesday...oh yes we do!

### Year 4

This week in English we will be publishing our non-chronological reports. We will then be exploring poetry as our final unit of the term. In Maths we will be multiplying a number by 1 and 0, as well as multiplying 3 numbers together. In Science we will be investigating what happens when sound is muffled. In R.E we will be exploring the gifts of the wise men and creating our own image that is linked to the celebration of the gift of Jesus. In DT we will be making our pottage recipe to taste and then evaluate!

### Year 5

This week in Year 5 we will be continuing to write our biographies about Neil Armstrong in English, whilst in Maths we will be exploring multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. During our Science lesson we will be exploring the difference between solar and lunar eclipses and in RSHE we will be exploring how boys' bodies change during puberty. In History we will be learning about the importance of oracle bones and in DT we will be evaluating our talking boxes.

### Year 6

In English this week we will be writing diary entries, initially based on Anne Frank. We will then write a diary entry as an evacuee. In Maths, we will revisit place value, rounding, long multiplication and division. Please continue to quiz your child on their multiplication facts so they can be more efficient when calculating. We work on this in class but it would be beneficial for them to practice at home as well. In Science, we will be completing our unit of work on light by reporting on our investigation. We will be concluding our History topic by discussing how WW2 ended. In Religious Education we will be exploring ways Christians 'get ready' for the coming of Jesus. Additionally, we will be embroidering hessian cloth to create a pattern using stitching techniques. This has been an exciting part of our DT, following on from 'unstitching' clothing last week trying to get the item back to its original pieces of cut fabric.

### Introduction of Fixed Penalty Formal Warning from September 2023

From September 2023 we have decided to take the decision to request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice where unauthorised absence exceeds 15% in a six-week period. If you wish to seek approval for any request of absence for your child(ren) from School, then you must apply in writing to the Head of School, at least four weeks in advance of the requested period. (Please request a form from the school office). You should only remove your child(ren) if the absence has been authorised, and notified to you in writing by the School. Any exceptional circumstances must be clearly set out in the written request to the Head Teacher who will consider each case upon its merits. If you then choose to take your child out of school during term time and it is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and/or has not been approved by the School, then this will be coded as an unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for the period of absence. The law states that, where there are unacceptable levels of attendance, schools may request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice following the legal framework:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under section 444 of the Education Act.
- In some cases, where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty of £60 per parent, per child, which will increase if the fine isn't paid within the first 21 days to £120
- Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty may result in further legal action being taken against you.

ALL fines are retained by the Local Authority and the school does not receive any of this. We will continue to work with families to support as much as we can with attendance and further information can be found in our school attendance policy on our website. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

### Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

St Mary's are looking for volunteers to set up and run the school's PTA. The main role of the PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and schools, in support of students, at schools where the PTA raises a significant portion of the school's discretionary money. In recent years the PTA have worked really hard in raising money for our school by organising events such as Discos, musical evenings, Christmas & Summer Fair and a BBQ at Sports Day are just some of the events that have been held over the years which have helped to pay for new books for the library, compost and plants for Gardening Club, Pantomime at Blackfriars, breakfast for SAT's, Year 1 dressing up outfits, Autism items and Year 6 diaries and pens. PTA events cannot happen without volunteers to run and organise them. The PTA committee is a small group of parents who always welcome new members to help co-ordinate the events diary. If you feel you can offer some of your spare time, please let the school office know – Thank you.

### Parent Pay

Thank you to those who have already signed up to ParentPay - In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to sign up to ParentPay to pay for school trips, breakfast club etc. If you haven't already done so, please visit [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) and activate your account via the Account login area on the home page of the site. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need assistance. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously, thank you. **Did you know, you can pay any amount into ParentPay weekly/monthly to save for any upcoming trips/events, this is then held in your ParentPay account until you need to make a payment.**

### Free School Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed and you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please call the school office where we will advise you on how to make an application for Free School Meals or click on the link below to create an account and apply.

<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

### **Hot School Meals**

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can receive a hot school meal FREE EVERYDAY! All children in KS2 can order a hot school meal at a cost of £2.45 per day. A School meal provides children with a healthy varied and balanced diet providing the right amount of energy to ensure that your child can work better in the afternoons. If you would like your child to have a school meal please come to the office where we will provide further information. Take a look at the Ideal School Meal website for an idea of the meals they provide - <https://schoolmealsonline.com/login> The deadline for ordering is a Monday for orders placed for the following week. If you have any queries, parents can contact Ideal School Meals direct on 01522 246424 or via email [admin@schoolmealsonline.co.uk](mailto:admin@schoolmealsonline.co.uk)

### **Twitter & Facebook**

Our Twitter & Facebook accounts are the best way to keep up to date with everything happening in school. Recently we have tweeted about upcoming events and even posted some children's fantastic learning online. Make sure you follow us on twitter @bostonstmarys. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view our tweets! You can see all tweets by clicking the link on our website [www.bostonstmarys.co.uk](http://www.bostonstmarys.co.uk) or at [twitter.com/bostonstmarys](https://twitter.com/bostonstmarys)