



St. Mary's CE Primary School, Welham Green

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Autumn Term Issue 13
8th December 2023

One of the things that has been going on in school this week is the classes have been designing their Christmas trees for the Christmas Tree Festival which is taking place at St Mary's Church this weekend. The theme this year is 'Christmas Around the World' and as I went round and looked at some of the trees yesterday afternoon, a number of the classes had produced decorations which reflected the countries that our children come from. It is wonderful to see and celebrate how diverse our school community is and it is a reminder of how much we can learn from each other. Do please go and visit St Mary's Church this weekend and have a look at all the entries and the most popular trees will be decided by the votes of the visitors.

One of the highlights for me this week was being invited to join Year 1 on their local area walk on Wednesday morning where we took a map and walked around Welham Green. We stopped at the Post Office and bought stamps so we could post letters and then, on the way back, we visited the hardware store and the pharmacy and bought a jar of gingerbread men in Simmons! We also had another visit this week from Rock Steady. It was terrific to see the excitement on the children's faces when I told them in Collective Worship that Rock Steady were coming in again and we are looking forward to working with them next term.

This week has also been Assessment Week in school and the children have been working hard as we've looked at how they are progressing across the curriculum and we look forward to working with them as the year progresses to ensure that they can 'Flourish for the future'.

I was delighted to receive an email from Miss Hazell this week, sharing her experiences, so far, from her travels across South America. We have reproduced the email and photographs in this newsletter to share it with you all. It is wonderful to know that she is having such a great time, but nice to know that she is missing us all too!

We are now on the 'countdown' to Christmas and there is a great deal for us all to look forward: rehearsals for our various Christmas productions have been going on throughout this week and we are very much looking forward to sharing them with you next week.

As we continue our journey through Advent this year, I will leave you with a quote from Pope Francis:

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."

Have a good weekend.

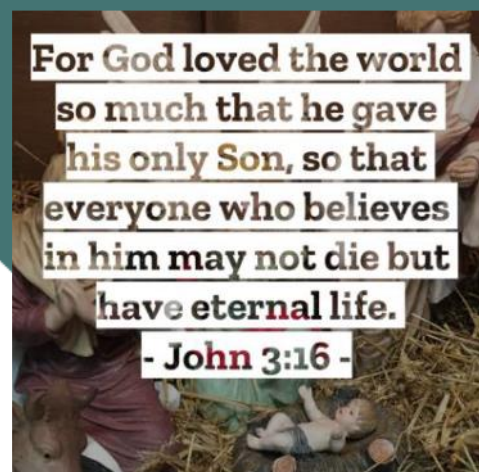
Adrian Petty

Headteacher



Our value this half term is:

Love



Contact us 8:30am to 4pm at...



01707 276725



admin@stmarys565.herts.sch.uk



www.stmarys565.herts.sch.uk



Dellsome Lane, Welham Green, AL9 7NE

HOUSEPOINTS



I am pleased to report that House Points this week were as follows:

77



101



95



98



Well done Hedgehogs!

Running Totals:

1758

1720

1692

1755

STARS OF THE WEEK

The following children were nominated by the TAs for good manners and joined Mr Petty on the Star Table .

Reception - Charlize

Year 1 - Sofia

Year 2 - Mason

Year 3 - Binudi

Year 4 - Daniel

Year 5 - Kimia

Year 6 - Sophie

Weekly Teacher Nominations this week were:-

Reception - Ellie

Year 1 - Leo

Year 2 - Mohammed

Year 3 - Bella

Year 4 - Kristy-Anne

Year 5 - John

Year 6 - Amie & Lexi-May

Congratulations to all these children.

ATTENDANCE STARS

Attenborough 95.7%



Elizabeth 95.2%



Mandela 94.8%



Goodall 92.4%



Hawking 91.2%



SCHOOL DIARY



Date	Event
Monday 11th December	Reception Christmas Production 2pm
Wednesday 13th December	Pantomime Whole School Trip
Wednesday 13th December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service 4pm St Mary's Church
Thursday 14th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Production 10am & 2pm
Friday 15th December	PTA Christmas Sale
Monday 18th December	Class Christmas Parties in the afternoon
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 20th December	End of Term Church Service 10am
Wednesday 20th December	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Thursday 4th January 2024	Inset Day—School Closed
Friday 5th January	Inset Day—School Closed
Monday 8th January	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am
19th February—23rd February	Half Term
Thursday 28th March	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Monday 15th April	Inset Day—School Closed
Tuesday 16th April	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am
Thursday 2nd May	Reception screening children born after 1st March
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday—School closed
27th May—31st May	Half Term
Thursday 4th July	Year 6 trip to Stanborough Water Park
Friday 23rd July	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm

“

We are a welcoming Christian community where every child has the chance to flourish.

We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future.

We're thankful for all that God has provided; proud of where He has placed us; and excited at the potential to come.

”



The Corrie Ten Boom Award for

Love



*"Overflowing with thankfulness,
inspiration and joy"*

My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. (John 15:12)

Prayer of the Week

God, our loving Father,

help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. For Jesus' sake, Amen!

Reception - Elizabeth

This week Elizabeth class have been very busy. They have been practising their Nativity all week and are excited to share their performance with their families on Monday at 2pm. The class have even hand delivered an invitation to Sunshine Preschool, to ask them to join us for our dress rehearsal. Elizabeth Class were pleased to see some of their previous teachers and classmates when they delivered the invitation.

Elizabeth Class have also been busy making decorations for the class entry to the North Mymms St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival. Our class tree is called 'All Creatures Great and Small' and features animals found across the world all placed upon a bright pink tree which has been turned into a flamingo to keep with our theme. The children manipulated and moulded model magic air dough to make their animals and painted them once they had dried.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend.



Year 1 - Curie

Curie Class have been very busy showing us how much they have learnt since September during assessment week. We are so proud of them! We have also been very busy practising for our Christmas production next week, we know you will really enjoy it!

In Geography, we have been learning how to follow a simple map and we put these skills into practise by following a map when we went for a walk around our local area on Wednesday. We visited the Post Office and every child bought a stamp for their special letters that they then posted. We also visited Simmons, the hardware shop and the pharmacy to see what they sold. Everyone was very well behaved and the shopkeepers commented on how polite our children were. Have a lovely weekend.



Year 2 - Hawking

The week started off with lots of hard work undertaking some Maths and English assessments and the children showed fantastic effort and resilience! Some of their stories about a tiger were really amazing and it was wonderful to see them applying all their learning so far! On Tuesday, we were joined once again by Rock Steady and some of the children were able to experience what it is like to be in a band!

Of course, production rehearsals are going wonderfully, and no one is using a script so well done to all these children learning their lines and song lyrics! we can't wait to show you what we have put together on Thursday!

Today we decorated our Christmas tree for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival Competition, which will be on show at the church from tomorrow afternoon, so please go and vote for 'Global Yuletide Wonder' by Hawking class! As always, have a lovely weekend!



Year 3 - Mandela

This week was assessment week and what a week it's been! Mandela class have worked incredibly hard and remembered how to conduct themselves in assessments.

We have looked at alternative Christmases around the world and have produced our own decorations to commemorate other countries' Christmas traditions.

In English, we have finished our extended piece of writing for Mini Rabbit Not Lost and have prepared ourselves for our assessments. We have done some descriptive writing in English using our storytelling skills. Some of the keywords we have used were sparkle, festive, twinkle, illuminations, glittering, flicker and frosted.

Mandela Class have reflected on the environment we are in and fortunate enough to bring a smile to others this Christmas by creating our own cards to send to some of the elderly in our community. We have made Christmas greetings card to send to two different care homes to share our Christmas joy.



Year 4 - Attenborough

It has been another busy and productive week in Year 4. The children have been very busy completing their assessments. All the children worked hard and tried their best. During the afternoons we have been focusing on the Christmas Tree Competition. The children have been researching Christmas traditions around the world and how different cultures celebrate. We have been using different materials to help us make our trees. We are all looking forward to a week of Christmas celebrations next week. I have a lot of fun activities planned for the class.



Year 5 - Luther King

What a busy week in Year 5!

Mini Police:

We had two sessions of Mini Police this week: Drugs and Fitness.

We learnt about lots of different drugs- legal and illegal- and what impact they can have on your body and life. We explored boxes of 'pretend' drugs, to see what they look like.

On Thursday, we completed a fitness test that the Police Force have to complete: the bleep test and pad work. We learnt a range of strikes and defences that are used on the police front line.

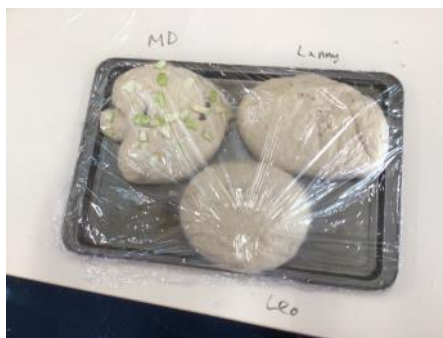
Bread:

On Wednesday we made bread! It's safe to say that the school smelt DIVINE. Aromas of chocolate, banana, honey, apple, fudge, garlic, tomato, filled the school corridors.

Delicious! We made the dough from scratch: sifting the flour, adding the yeast, pouring in the warm water, mixing the ingredients into a dough and then getting our hands dirty!! We kneaded and shaped our dough: stars, hearts, baguettes, plaits!



Year 5 - Luther King



Year 6 - Goodall

It's been assessment week in Year 6 but that hasn't been all we've up to! We've also: launched our in class computer game design competition showing off all the programming knowledge we've acquired over the past term; been learning about percentages including looking at real world applications with Christmas shopping; designed and made our amazing around the world Christmas tree; and started exploring Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes in the Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.



A message from Miss Hazell in South America

Hola chicos! (Hi guys!)

Well I've been in South America for 6 weeks now and let me tell you it has been a very busy 6 weeks indeed (SOOOO many long bus journeys). I am having such a great time here, but don't worry, I haven't forgotten you lot back home!

So far I have visited Argentina, Uruguay on a day trip, Chile and I am currently in Bolivia. It's very high up here in La Paz, about 3680m above sea level. Welham Green is about 92m above sea level.

So far some of my highlights have been...

Argentina

Climbing the Vinciguerra glacier in Tierra del Fuego, Ushuaia. We had to use poles and crampons (spikes that you stick to the outside of your boots) as it was steep and there was a lot of snow when we got higher up! It was very hard work but felt like a great achievement when I got to the top!

El Calafate to visit the Perito Moreno Glacier. It was enormous. At its highest part it was 74m out of the water. Imagine how much ice is hiding underneath!!! You could hear it cracking and I even saw part of it break off and fall into the water.

Horse riding in Mendoza. Let me tell you a little secret... I was so nervous to even get on my horse! Once I got on and we got going up to the top of the mountains it was so much fun! The horses were very calm and the views from the top were great!

Jujuy National Park (enjoy pronouncing that one! You actually pronounce it Hu-hoy). We visited Hornocal where we were 4350m above sea level to see the beautiful 14 coloured mountains. We had to take a 4x4 up the mountain and it was very steep and bumpy!

Chile

Torres del Paine National Park. One of the most beautiful places I have ever been! I completed a 5 day trek walking about 50 miles in total. Most of which was either steep uphill or steep downhill! It was tough but I felt so proud at the end. We got through those hard uphill days with lots of singing!!

San Pedro de Atacama. Here I went stargazing. It's supposedly one of the best places in the world to see the stars. Unfortunately, it was a full moon which meant that the sky was very bright. That means less stars, but, through the telescope we managed to see Saturn and you could even see its rings! The most amazing thing was the moon. You could see it in such detail.

Bolivia

Salar de Uyuni- The largest salt flats in the world. This was one of the tours I was looking forward to most on my trip and boy did it not disappoint!! We were in a 4x4 for 3 days driving around visiting various lakes (even a pink one!!) and rock formations. I have seen SO many llamas!! Day 3 we woke up at 3.30am to catch the sunrise on the salt flats. We then had lots of fun taking silly pictures!

Tomorrow I am taking the bus to Lake Titicaca which in Inca mythology is the birthplace of the sun. It is also the highest of the worlds large lakes!

Hope you're all well and working hard at school! If you have any questions then just ask your teacher to send me a message!!

Missing you all lots!

hablaremos pronto! (Been learning a lot of Spanish!!)

Miss Hazell

X



Rock Steady



**YOUR CHILD
COULD PLAY IN
THEIR VERY OWN
ROCK BAND!**

Are you looking for a fun activity to boost your child's confidence and support their overall journey through primary school?



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Each lesson will build on your child's individual learning and motivational style, and they'll get to play real music in their own band from the very first lesson!



84%

parents say Rocksteady lessons supports their child's confidence

97%

children say they enjoy attending lessons or wish they could do more

100%

head teachers say Rocksteady lessons have a significant impact on children

CLICK HERE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD UP NOW
WWW.ROCKSTEADYMUSICSCHOOL.COM/INFO-FOR-PARENTS



Admissions Consultation 2025-26

You will have received a letter from the Chair of Governors last week about the consultation that is currently being undertaken about the Determined Admissions Arrangements for St Mary's in the academic year 2025-2026. Please read the letter and the arrangements, both of which are available on the school's website, as we welcome any comments that you may wish to make.

Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church 8th - 10th December

As you will be aware St Mary's Church are holding a Christmas Tree Festival this weekend. The different classes at school have used their creativity to design and submit their Christmas trees to the Festival. There are going to be three prizes at the Festival for the most popular trees and these are decided by the votes of the visitors to the church. So please go along to the church and vote for the tree that your child's class has designed! The Festival is open for visitors on Saturday 9th December 10.00am – 4.00pm and Sunday 10th December 12.00pm – 4.00pm.



Year 5 - Luther King Class



Year 2 - Hawking Class



Year 6 - Goodall Class



Reception - Elizabeth Class



Year 1 - Curie Class



Year 3 & 4 - Mandela & Attenborough Class



**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES**

£50 cash
Chocolate Hamper
KL Cakes £25 voucher
Alcohol hamper x 2
Cuddly toy
Costco Hamper
Prosecco
Snow globe Gin
Santa Stop here decoration- Tilly&Tommy crafts
Ballis & Harding Spa Kit
Personalised Xmas decoration- Tilly&Tommy crafts
2 entries to Hatfield Fun Zone
Pedicure-Suzannah
And more



Children have each brought home two Raffle books to sell. The books are £5 each or £1 per ticket. Once sold, please fill in the name and contact phone number on each stub, with the purchaser keeping the body of the ticket. The stubs will then need to be handed in to school. If you would like more books please contact the school office. Please return any unsold tickets to the office.

The deadline to return sold tickets is Monday 11th December at 9am.



Saturday 16th December 2023

**North Mymms Book Swap, North Mymms Memorial
Hall, 10am-1pm**

Extended Christmas Special!!

Meet Santa £1

Raffle

Tombola

Homemade Jams

Jewellery, gifts and more

**Sit and enjoy homemade mince pies, cakes and hot
or cold drinks.**

Book Swap is open as usual.

**Raffle prizes include: £50 voucher Brookmans Pub, Doggy Gift bag from
Groomers on the Green, Stitch and Knit prize, £10 Aylett Voucher, Prize
from Tealicious and more**



Winter Warmer

All Ages Welcome

North Mymms Memorial Hall together with North Mymms Parish Council are pleased to announce the **return of the “Winter Warmer”** for the community of North Mymms



The “Winter Warmer” will offer a warm space and a warm welcome, with an opportunity to buy a mug of soup for £1.00, and a cup of tea or coffee for 50p

The Hall will be open from 12:30pm to 2:30pm on

Thursday 9th November

Thursday 16th November

Thursday 23rd November

There is no Winter Warmer on 30th November

Thursday 7th December

Thursday 14th December

Thursday 21st December

St Mary's Church North Mymms
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

8th – 10th December 2023



Friday 8th December 7.30pm.
A Christmas Carol Concert
Positif Chamber Choir

Hear and join in carols from around the world. Then enjoy looking around the trees accompanied by a glass of mulled wine and some mince pies. Tickets £12 (£5 for under 16s) available via church website, from the church office or on the door

Saturday 9th December 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 10th December 12.00pm - 4.00pm

Come along on Saturday or Sunday to enjoy the fun and vote for your favourite tree. There will be refreshments, crafts and produce stalls

Entry £2 – under 16s free