



St. Mary's CE Primary School, Welham Green

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Autumn Term Issue 14
15th December 2023

What a terrific week it has been! I think the last full week of the Autumn term is one of my favourite weeks of the whole school year when we have all the Christmas productions and, more than that, every class in the school has achieved 90% or higher attendance this week! It has been a good week at St Mary's!

The week began with the Reception production 'The Very Greatest Journey', which took place on Monday and we saw our youngest children perform their version of the Christmas story. The joy and enthusiasm that they communicated through their performance was wonderful to see. Later in the week, we were treated to the Year 1 and Year 2 production of 'Prickly Hay', which was another look at the Nativity, this time through the eyes of those working and living in the stable at Bethlehem. The children did so well in performing their lines and singing their songs: we could see how much parents had helped the children prepare, when several members of the audience could be seen singing the songs or doing the actions!

Key Stage 2 had their Carol Service on Wednesday after school at St Mary's Church, where there was a mix of traditional carols and modern Christmas songs and a number of the children gave Bible readings or read Christmas poems.

We also had the whole school trip to the pantomime in St Albans this week, to see a performance of Peter Pan, which was really enjoyed by everyone who went - children and adults alike!

This morning we had our PTA Christmas sale when the children were able to buy gifts for family members. I am, as always, very grateful to the members of the PTA for giving up their time to organise and run the sale: these events don't just happen and a great deal of time goes into the planning and preparation of these events. The Christmas Raffle was also drawn during the Christmas sale and thank you to all those of you who bought tickets as it has raised a good sum of money for the school, which ultimately supports the children.

We now just have a few days of term left and still there is a great deal for us to look forward: the class Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day and the End of term Carol Service in church. However, whilst there is all this celebrating, we must not forget why we are doing it. Just over 2,000 years ago a baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem and this was no ordinary baby, but the Saviour who is Christ the Lord. We must also be mindful that, whilst this is a very happy and enjoyable time of year for so many, it can be a really difficult time of year for others. In everything that we have done at St Mary's this week, I think perhaps the most moving element was listening to one of the songs in the Key Stage 1 Production: "If You Think You're Not Important" and it is with the words of the chorus from that song that I will leave you this week:

"If you think you're not important,

For the little things you do,

Just remember God above

Is very proud of you!"

Have a good weekend.

Adrian Petty

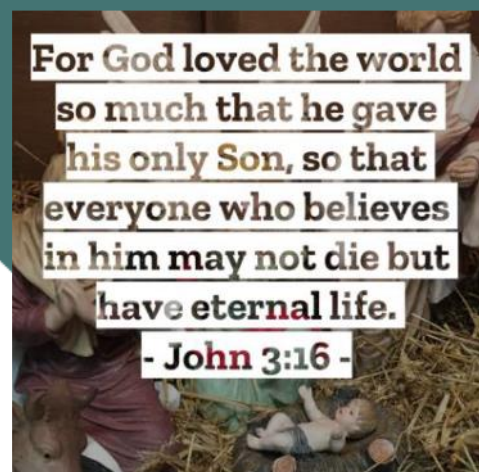
Headteacher



Flourish for the future

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:

102



118



114



98



Well done Hedgehogs!

Running Totals:

1860

1838

1806

1853

STARS OF THE WEEK

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

Reception - Meghan

Year 1 - Jawayne

Year 2 - Louise

Year 3 - Diana

Year 4 - Michelle

Year 5 - Amelia

Year 6 - Ellie

Weekly Teacher Nominations this week were:-

Reception - Polly

Year 1 - All of Curie Class

Year 2 - Reynard

Year 3 - Charlotte

Year 4 - Fahimoh

Year 5 - Termeh

Year 6 - Moni

Congratulations to all these children.

ATTENDANCE STARS

Attenborough 96.7%



Hawking 95%



Curie 93.2%



Mandela 92.6%



Goodall 92.1%



Elizabeth 92%



Luther King 90%



SCHOOL DIARY



Date	Event
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
Thursday 11th July	Transition Day
Friday 23rd July	End of Term— School ends 1:45pm
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day—School Closed
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day—School Closed
Wednesday 4th September	Term Starts—Children back at 8:40am

“

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 has been full of Christmas cheer in Reception with their amazing performance of 'The Very Greatest Journey' our class Nativity, the wonderful trip to see Peter Pan at the theatre, a walk to post our Christmas lists to Father Christmas and a visit from the big man himself!

"Santa came to our Class and gave us presents" Meghan

"My favourite thing has been having a picture with Father Christmas" Ellie

"We painted baubles, gold" Shane

"We singed we wish you a Merry Christmas on stage" Harriet

We are so proud of the children in Elizabeth class for all of their hard-work so far in their first term at St Mary's. They have all shown fantastic progress, enthusiasm and are excited for the terms to come.

We are looking forward to our class party on Monday afternoon which they can bring their own snacks and clothes to, Christmas jumper day on Tuesday and the end of term Church service on Wednesday before term ends at 1.45pm.

We hope you have a lovely weekend



Year 1 - Curie

Wow! What a busy week in Curie Class. We started the week by watching the wonderful Elizabeth Class perform their version of the Nativity Story. Next, it was our turn to show our KS1 production to the school on Tuesday. On Wednesday we had a lovely time at the Pantomime and on Thursday it was our turn to take the stage (twice) to perform our show to family, governors and friends. Thank you again for the support you have given your children at home with learning their lines and songs, they have been amazing! Wishing you a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Year 2 - Hawking

What a fabulous week in Year 2! All the children worked so hard and made great efforts with their class production of Prickly Hay. It was great to see so many families in the audience. They also had a great time at the Pantomime on Wednesday and behaved so well during the trip.



Year 3 - Mandela

What a busy week we have had! Mandela class have continued to work on all things leading to increased independence. We have written narratives and inferred what the moral of The Snowman (1982) was about and what we took away from it.

On Tuesday, we had our Design Technology day and what a joy it was to create our own healthy sandwiches, make them and then evaluate them. There were some interesting flavour choices made, and this is where our evaluative skills came into play!

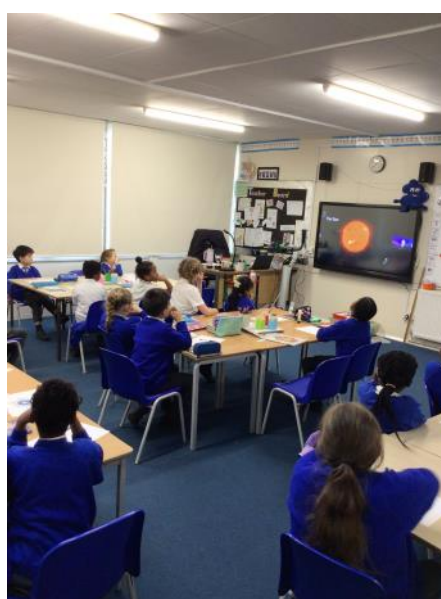
We have thoroughly enjoyed the Pantomime and the church service later in the afternoon. In Mandela class, we had Daisy, Nancy, Zikora-Reign, David, Charlotte and Lily lead in song which was special for all to see!

Finally, I'm proud to announce that the Christmas Festival Tree competition was a big hit with £1000 raised for charities within our community, where the joint effort by year 3 and 4 was awarded a 'Highly Commended'! Please have a look at our Christmas tree in the church if you can go up to see it.



Year 4 - Attenborough

It has been a very busy and festive week in Attenborough Class. We started off the week doing some festive Maths problems. On Monday we were lucky enough to watch the Reception's nativity play, all the class really enjoyed it and we had a lot of fun. We were also involved in a festive solar system lesson online. The children got to listen to a space expert and then make their own Christmas decorations inspired by space. On Tuesday we planned and completed our DT unit. The class learnt about seasonal fruit and vegetables. We chopped, diced and prepared the vegetables we need to make our class vegetable soup. We then cooked the soup and got to eat it. We evaluated how it tasted and looked. A lot of the children really liked the soup, and I was so proud that everyone tried it. We also got to watch the KS1 nativity play 'Prickly Hay', it was a very good performance, and my class really enjoyed it. Pantomime day arrived and the class were almost jumping with excitement. We travelled to St Albans and watched Peter Pan. It was lovely to see how much everyone enjoyed it, even if we did get squirted with water. It was wonderful to discuss and hear what each person's favourite part of the pantomime was. This week we have also watched the snowman and written poems inspired by the film. We talked about how impactful the music was and that there didn't need to be any talking during the film. We have also been practising our song which we are going to be performing in the Church on Wednesday for the end of term service. We finished off our week by making Christmas cards and having our class reward - a movie afternoon with some squash and snacks. I am looking forward to a Christmas packed last week of term.



Year 5 - Luther King

It is hard to believe we have reached the last Friday of this term. Looking back at all we have learned and achieved since September, all our pupils in Luther King class should be incredibly proud of the work they have produced but especially of how they have grown into wonderful independent learners. We certainly are very proud of them all!

This week has been very exciting as we have been getting into the Christmas spirit by attending the wonderful Peter Pan pantomime production at St Albans.

In English we have been writing animal poems focusing on figurative language. By using descriptive language and metaphors to describe our animals our classmates were able to guess which animal our poems were about.

We have produced some great Christmas Maths, had a look at why the Messiah came when God sent Jesus to us at Christmas time in RE and everyone in Luther King has been very creative in producing some wonderful Christmas cards with plenty of glitter galore!

We do wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas! We look forward to seeing all our wonderful Year 5 pupils back here in the New Year!



Year 6 - Goodall

In Year 6 this week, we have been getting in to the Christmas spirit. Making our personal Elfs, lots of ChristMaths and finishing our Sherlock Holmes stories.

On Thursday we made some delicious burgers from scratch, to Mr Guilder's secret recipe. We then ate them and now we all want the recipe!



Peter Pan - Pantomime

On Wednesday morning, 169 pupils and 26 staff, went to the Alban Arena in St Albans, to watch the Pantomime Peter Pan. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the show and had a wonderful time. Some visitors from another local community group commented on 'how smart our children looked and how polite our children were' and I have to agree that they were a credit to the school and a pleasure to take on the trip. Who knows where our next whole school trip will be to?! Details to follow in Spring 2024!



As some of you are already aware, for the past 8 years, I have been involved in supporting a village in The Gambia, called Kaiaf. A small group of people, led by my brother-in-law, have fundraised to rebuild and renovate a medical centre in the village which is now used by many other surrounding villages. It provides local medical assistance for adults and children and also has a new maternity unit for mothers and babies. We are fortunate to be classed as friends in the village and are welcomed by the elders and village community when we visit. I am visiting the village over the Christmas holiday and this time will be spending some time at Kaiaf school. I have visited there in the past, and taken books from St Mary's for the pupils, but am hoping that this time I will be able to set up links between Kaiaf school and St Mary's. This will give our pupils the opportunity to understand how school life is different in another country and also help the pupils of Kaiaf with their understanding of English schools. The children in the village love football, especially the English football teams! Therefore, if anyone has any old football kits that their children have outgrown, please consider bringing them to school (before the end of term) so that I can share them with the children on my visit. In the future, I am hopeful that our children could hold a fundraising event for Kaiaf school as I know their resources are very limited. If anyone has any questions, please speak to me at the Year One door. Thank you for your support in advance, Mrs Bartlett.

Supermarket Vouchers - FSM

Supermarket vouchers will be emailed on 19th December to all families who have applied for benefit-related Free Schools Meals (FSM) and not those who receive mandatory Universal Infant Free School Meals in reception, year 1 and 2.

Please use the redemption eCode within 3 months by going to www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery and entering the 16-digit eCode and selecting your chosen supermarket for your eGift card. The expiry date will be on the email that you will receive from Edenred.



The PTA Christmas Raffle raised over £900! The winners were drawn by the children today after the Christmas Sale. All winners will be contacted by the PTA. Thank you to everyone who contributed prizes or bought tickets.

Services at St Mary's Church

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm

Christmas carols and readings from the gospels telling the Christmas story. The church is mostly lit with candles and it is a wonderful way to enter into the joy of the Christmas story.



Crib Service Saturday 23rd December at 3pm

A one-hour service for all ages, where we re-tell the story of the first nativity through singing, and acting out the main parts of the story of Jesus' birth. We have a selection of children's costumes to choose from if you don't have your own.



Christingle Service Sunday 7th January at 10am

During the service, each person makes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.



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head teachers say Rocksteady lessons have a significant impact on children

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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