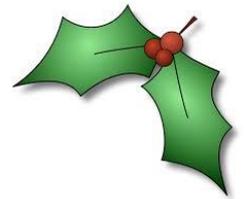


NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Issue: 14 Date: 21st December 2018

www.st-marys-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Tel: 01249 460231

Goodbye!

Today we say a sad goodbye to Mrs Mallinson, Miss Szerencses and Miss Jefferies. We wish them the best of luck in their future lives and thank them for all their care and hard work at St Mary's School! We will miss you!

Future Dates.

TD Day 07/01/19

08/01/19-Start of Term 3- children return.

Head Lice!

A couple of cases of Head Lice have been found in school, please make sure you check your child thoroughly & treat accordingly.

Thank you

HEAD'S NOTES

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term comes to its end, I have been reflecting on the journey we have been on since September. We all experienced challenges, after St Mary's received its Ofsted judgement. Parents, children and staff were shocked, disappointed and angry at the news that the school was 'Inadequate' in all areas. There have been difficult and heart-breaking decisions for parents to make and it has been hard to keep believing that the school will improve quickly, particularly if others have chosen to leave. However, the school community is resilient and we have joined together to focus on a positive future for the children in the school.

The staff have experienced great pressure, with continuous monitoring and expectations to develop their practice rapidly. They have done this with good hearts and a relentless focus on the children's learning and well-being. New staff were appointed and have settled quickly into the school. I would like to thank the whole team for their commitment to working hard and positively and wish them a happy and relaxing Christmas break.

The Key Stage One Nativity, this week's Carol Service led by Key Stage Two and the Nursery 'Sing a longs', have also revealed the strong community that we have at St Mary's School. The children led us in remembering the story of Jesus' birth and the message therein: love, kindness, service to others.

Their simple faith sets the example for us, as we struggle with the pressures of our busy lives and reminds us of the things which are truly precious and important.

Thank you also, to all of you parents, for your support over this past term: attending meetings, assemblies, masses and performances. We appreciate your commitment to the school and that you care about the education and ethos within it. Thank you also for the many cards and gifts we have received this week, your generosity is much appreciated.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year of 2019!

God Bless
Mrs Howie-Lee

Collection for Sister Mary

A massive thank you to all parents and carers for their generosity to the collection for Sister Mary – we raised an impressive **£342.94!**

Applying for a Primary School Place?

Will your child be four years old before September 2019? If so you must apply for a primary school place on www.wiltshire.gov.uk the deadline is midnight 15th January 2019.

School Meals

After a term of trying the new menu, some things have worked well and some not so well. Thank you for those of you who returned the survey, these will all be taken into account and a new menu will be launched at the start of next term. Our main priority is and always will be the children, so it is important we get it right.



PTA News

A huge THANK YOU from the PTA for all your support and contributions this term. We are delighted to announce that together we have raised over £1000 from our Christmas raffle, film night and nativity refreshment donations. All the money raised goes towards the school, with our current focus being the continued development of the new school library. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Lever in the office, Carolynn Griffiths and Catherine Harris for organising this year's hugely successful raffle. If you did not see the class hampers, they looked fabulous and thank you again for all the generous donations.

And now it's over to you...

With our AGM coming up in the New Year, it's time for a new PTA committee! We have had a lot of fun over the last 3 years from setting up the new PTA from scratch to running 5 fetes, 4 discos, 3 pancake races and our fun Easter activities. Please bear in mind that this is all run by volunteers who like you, all have children and jobs (in some cases full-time), and we have given as much as we can for the school over the last few years. Thanks to some dedicated teamwork from all our helpers and your generosity, we have raised over £12,000 of vital funds for our school during this time. Unfortunately, the time has come for us all to move on, and the committee post holders will now be stepping down with effect from the AGM to be held in the New Year. This paves the way for a new group of volunteers to help continue the rich tradition of fundraising and community at St. Mary's. There really has never been a better time to get involved! If you think you might be able to help form a new team and organise events, please do not assume someone else will do it - now is the time!

For an informal chat about what is involved, please see a PTA member at school at any time or contact stmaryschippenhampta@gmail.com

Merry Christmas from St. Mary's PTA!

Your committee 2017-2018:

Kirsty Mason (chair), Carolynn Griffiths (Deputy Chair), Karen Rogers (Treasurer), Melinda Biro (Secretary)

New Class Names from January

2019

Nursery:	Wrens
Reception:	Robins
Year 1:	Owls
Year 2:	Woodpeckers
Year 3:	Kingfishers
Year 4:	Kestrels
Year 4/5:	Ospreys
Year 5:	Eagles
Year 6:	Falcons

All about Christmas

My Christmas stocking was shocking!
On Christmas day
My Christmas tree had loads of presents!
I loved the one that was a toy pheasant
At the table, there were Christmas crackers
And lots of food on silver platters
For afters, we had Christmas pudding
Our mouths were full, our tummies bulging
We watch the Strictly Christmas special
Then into bed we all settle!

By Violet E, Class 5

Christmas Eve

Everything was exciting and happy on Christmas Eve I was
Getting butterflies in my tummy Santa was coming!
On Christmas Day my stocking was shocking!
I love Christmas so so much that I sometimes forget to open my stocking!

By Tilly C – Class 5

