



St. Mary's Newsletter

December 2018—End of term



At St. Mary's we aim to provide an environment for all members of our school community where positive attitudes to learning and creativity are promoted and valued within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia, Trust

Christian Values: Friendship

This half term we have been focussing on 'Friendship'. The display in the school hall explores what this means to us.

'A friend loves at all times.'

Proverbs 17:17

Mrs Cooper's Award

Mrs Cooper's Award is a very special award that is presented every half-term to a child who has displayed the qualities discussed in our Christian Value theme. A huge congratulations to James Armstrong who was presented with the award this week.

FOSM Christmas Fair

Thank you to FOSM for all the hard work in organising our annual Christmas Fair, which was another resounding success this year. A special thank you to the Bell family for providing the delicious turkey and sausage rolls. Thank you also to the Key Stage Two children for making their fun games for us all to enjoy. Many thanks too for all your support in providing donations and joining us for the afternoon. We raised approximately a whopping £1600 which is another increase on the previous year! These funds will go towards providing more resources in school for your children. A great time was had by one and all, and the children especially enjoyed the visit from Father Christmas! What a tremendous effort and thank you to everyone for their time in helping run the stalls and especially for clearing up at the end—Mr Ripley said that the school was tidier after the fair than any other year!

Christmas Nativity

The Christmas Nativity was a resounding success and very much enjoyed by everyone. Amidst all the tinsel and tea towels, the children's singing and acting was superb and we have had many, many positive comments from those who watched the performance. Thank you to all the children, staff, parents and FOSM for your hard-work which resulted in such a fun and memorable evening. A special thank you must go to Mrs Beighton for organising and leading our nativity—she puts her all in to this every year and the quality of the performance is credit to her hard work. Thank you also for your generous donations—we managed to raise an impressive £264 which again will be spent in school on resources for the children. Please remember that for safeguarding reasons, any photographs or videos taken during the performance are NOT allowed to be published on any social media sites.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

A huge thank you to our cooks Mrs Kath Speed and Mrs Sandra Hayes for producing our delicious Christmas lunches for the children and staff. It was all so tasty that even the sprouts were eaten! Thank you also to the parents who kindly helped us serve the children at their tables. This was also our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. With all the generous donations from the children we managed to raise £54. This money will go towards their

good work bringing essential food, healthcare, education and protection to children around the world.

Grandparents' Morning

On Wednesday 5th December we welcomed 74 grandparents in to school. During the morning the children and grandparents had great fun working together to make Christmas decorations. This is one of my favourite days of the year as much joy and happiness is had by all amidst all the glitter and glue! We received many positive comments about the behaviour of all our children and how polite they are too. The children were all a real credit to our school.

Carols Around the Tree

On Tuesday 18th December we were joined by guests from the surrounding villages who were invited to join with us in singing Christmas carols and songs from our nativity. It was lovely to see many familiar faces and some new ones too.

Attendance

I am very pleased to announce that our whole school attendance this academic year so far is 96.6%. This is very similar to this point in time in the last academic year and above our school target of 96%, which we are looking to maintain throughout the school year. We have 48 children who have managed an amazing 100% attendance this term, which is exactly the same number at this stage in the previous academic year. In celebration of this impressive achievement, we will be presenting 'Attendance Award' certificates to these children. Each and every day in school really does have a positive impact on your child's development and education, helping them to achieve their full potential, so thank you for every child's good attendance.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 23rd: Last day of term (usual finish time of 3.15pm)
- Monday 7th January: Staff Training Day
- Tuesday 8th January: Term starts

On behalf of our children, staff and myself, may I wish you all a very merry and restful Christmas, and a happy New Year.