



St. Mary's Newsletter

December 2019—End of term



Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia, Trust

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.

Christian Values: Forgiveness

This half term we have been focussing on Forgiveness. Our impressive Pupil Collective Worship Team have this week led a whole-school assembly on this value, which they planned and organised themselves.

Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

Luke 11:4

Mrs Cooper's Award

Our Mrs Cooper's Award is a very special award that is presented every half term to a child who has displayed impressive personal and academic qualities, and has been a good role model to their peers, clearly demonstrating our Christian values. A huge congratulations go to Ewan in Class 3 who was presented with the award today.

Christmas Nativity

The Christmas Nativity was a resounding success once again and very much enjoyed by everyone. How well the children perform their songs and carry out their acting always really impresses me and this year was no different! This year I particularly enjoyed the harmonies between the different groups and classes. 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.

Also, I cannot thank you enough for your amazing and generous donations, along with the many words of support which I received regarding our nativity—they really do mean a lot, so thank you. As a result, we raised a whopping £476.33—almost double the total that we raised last year! This money will be spent on a new interactive panel for one of our classrooms. These panels are used almost every lesson and are an essential teaching tool in delivering learning. Thank you once again for your generosity and

support for our children and school.

FOSM Christmas Fair

Thank you to Mrs Kay and the FOSM team for all their hard work in organising our annual Christmas Fair, which was another resounding success this year. It was great having more space in the hall and classrooms for all the stalls and games. 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 the fantastic sum of £1670, 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 running and playing the many different wonderful games! What a tremendous effort and thank you to everyone for their time in helping run the stalls and especially for the great effort in clearing up at the end.

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. 18kg of turkey, 15kg of potatoes, 180 stuffing balls and 156 pigs in blankets were cooked and all gobbled up, including the 6kg of sprouts! 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 kind donations from the children, we raised £109.50—double the amount from last year! This money will go towards their good work bringing essential food, healthcare, education and protection to children around the world.

Grandparents' Morning

On Wednesday 4th December we welcomed over 70 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 shared by all amidst all the glitter and glue! We received many positive comments from our grandparents who almost to a person thoroughly enjoyed their time in school with all the children.

Carols Around the Tree

On Tuesday 17th December we were joined by guests from the village and 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. If you know of any senior residents from the surrounding villages, please check with them and let us know their names and addresses and we will add their names to the invitation list for next year, thank you.

Attendance

I am very pleased to announce that our whole school attendance this academic year so far is 97.5%. This is higher than 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, so thank you for your efforts in achieving this. We have 44 children who have managed an amazing 100% attendance this term, which is about 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 tomorrow. 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 20th: Last day of term (usual finish time of 3.15pm)
- Monday 6th January: Term starts (no staff training day)

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