



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love"
Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 15 v 12

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 25th November 2024

As we begin December the school Christmas trees have gone up and there was great excitement. The Advent wreath is out as we count down to Christmas and Mary, Joseph and the donkey have started the Pasada journey around school. Do ask the children about this to find out more!



Church Links

St Mary's Church - Christingle Service - St Mary's Church – Advent / Christingle will be on Sunday 1st December at 4pm and the children will all be given a Christingle to light and go home with. The star on the top of the church will be lit at 5pm. This is always a lovely service, so do come along! We will be making these at school on Friday – a huge thank you to Tesco for their contributions of the oranges. Envelopes are coming home today – if you feel you could put a few coins in then this would be great! If you are coming to the service, please bring some 10p or 20p coins that you could contribute!

Making Christingles – The children in KS2 worked with children in KS1/EY to make a Christingle. The children were able to talk about the symbolism with the red ribbon, orange, candle, sweets and the four cocktail sticks. It was lovely to see our oldest children working alongside our youngest children. These will be at the service on Sunday.



Advent Eucharist – Fr Paul, Mr Holloway and Mr Hancock joined us for our Advent Eucharist. We looked at the Advent wreath and lit the first candle and talked about the journey of Mary, Joseph and the donkey. The children were so well behaved and sang with gusto!



Monday worship – We talked about courage in our worship this week. We thought about a challenge from 'I'm a Celebrity' and the courage they show. We thought about how we need to persevere, push forward, show bravery and show courage when we are faced with a new challenge. We might feel uncomfortable but we get stronger but showing that we can do it. We looked at the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den and considered that sometimes we have to show courage when we need to stand up to something or somebody. We thought about experiences in our own life where we have needed to show courage.

Reflection - This week's reflection, thank you so much to Mrs Smith for putting this together for our school community. - [Perseverance](#)

Learning

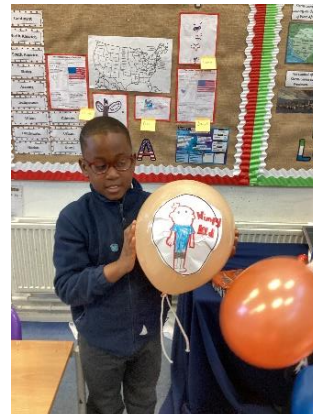
Bikeability – A week of riding bicycles for some of the Year 6. Thank you to WSCC for supplying the instructors to put the children through Level 1 and Level 2 on their bikes. The children all gained an award and we are very proud of their perseverance with Bikeability.



Pumpkin Pie – As part of the theme of Roadtrip USA, NZ, USA and SL have been making pies. The classes were celebrating thanksgiving. The children decorated balloons of their favourite book character inspired by the book *Balloons over Broadway* which tells the story of the puppeteer who engineered the marionettes for the Thanksgiving parade. Miss Fuller, NZ and USA have pictures of the pumpkin pie we made.



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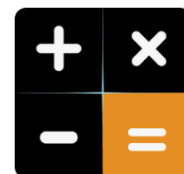
Clarinet - Clarinet performances are due to take place on Tuesday 3rd December. These will be at 10:50 and 11:30. Mrs Farrant and Miss Taylor sent out emails this week letting you know what time your child is performing.

Sport

Girls Football - The Year 6 girls' football team travelled to Tanbridge House for their second round of league matches on a very cold Friday afternoon. A tight opening game against St Robert Southwell looked set to end in a 0-0 stalemate, but a penalty in the last minute led to a 1-0 defeat. The girls fought hard in their second match but lost 2-0 to Castlewood before ending the evening with close 1-0 back to back defeats against Shelley and Kingslea. The girls have shown that they can compete in this league and are proving a hard team to breakdown. They will return for their final round of matches on 6th December determined to register a first win. Well done to the whole squad - Livia H (c), Indi P, Esme H, Esmae W, Daisy E, Rosa W, Rosie M and Katie-May M.

News

Online safety - There is a Calculator App that is being downloaded onto phones and children can hide messages, photos and other secret things within it. The app looks like this ..



Also a reminder no children should be on Whatsapp, SnapChat or TikTok. The age for this is 16 for good reason. We would advise any parent to be checking a child's phone daily and there really is no reason for them to have a phone until Y6 unless they are walking home on their own.

Staffing - We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Martin-Wells back on the 19th December. She will be working alongside Mrs Callender for a handover. In January Mrs Gowland will be teaching on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Martin Wells will be with us on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Thought-Full - There is a parent Tea and Chat on 'Anxiety' on **Wednesday 4th December at 1.30pm** in the small hall. Please contact the Office for more details.

Thought-Full are currently seeking parent and carer views about engagement with schools. All the information received will be used to inform what advice Thought-Full give to schools to improve engagement from parents and carers and how we can support schools further. All information obtained will be anonymous. We have produced a short survey for parents and carers to complete which can be accessed [here](#).

Christmas Card competition – We have sent a wide selection of wonderful drawings done by the children to Andrew Griffith's office at Westminster. In the past we have had a runner-up, so fingers crossed for this year. Mr Griffith sends his card to many constituents and also to His Majesty King Charles.

Christmas Postbox – Our Christmas Postbox will be running from 1st December. All cards should be posted in the box, which will be in the reception office, and these will be delivered daily by the Year 6 prefects – please ensure you put the child's full name and class on the envelope.

Things to know...

Parking – This week we had complaints about cars blocking driveways during drop off and collection – these have been referred to Operation Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.co.uk). **Please be considerate when parking and use the Sports & Social Club car park wherever possible.**

Film Night – Year 4/5/6 are invited to a Christmas Film Night as part of the Year 6 'Big Top' fundraiser. A separate email with details was sent out earlier this week

Chartwells' meal choices – Please could we ask that when ordering your child's meal choice, you sit down together and choose their preferred option. We have had a number of children refusing to eat what was ordered for them and, as a school, we only receive what you have ordered to reduce food waste.



December Cut off Dates

Thur 05/12 for w/c 16/12

Chartwell's Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 18th December - please ensure that you order in time.

Dates for your diary – AUTUMN TERM

Mon 1st Dec – Cubitt and West - Homes at Christmas competition starts

Sun 1st Dec – Advent/Christingle Service in church at 4pm with the lighting of the Pulborough star

Wed 4th Dec – Film Night for Y4/5/6 (Big Top fundraiser)

Thur 12th Dec – UK/Thailand Christmas Nativity performance – 2pm and 5pm

Mon 16th Dec India/Italy Christmas Production – 'Cock-a-doodle Christmas!' 5pm **and Tue 17th Dec** – 2pm and 5pm

Wed 18th Dec – Chartwell's Christmas lunch

Wed 18th Dec – PTA Christmas Disco 5pm – 6pm EYFS/KS1 and 6.15pm – 7.30pm KS2

Thur 19th Dec – Pantomime in school – Jack and the Beanstalk

Fri 20th Dec – Class Christmas Parties PM

Fri 20th Dec – Last day of the Autumn Term

Celebrations

Class Assemblies – These will be at 9am for this term and it is so valuable for parents to share the learning that has been going on.

NZ – 4th December

Japan – 5th December



Vine leaves – **Annabelle (SL)** have a vine leaf for humility. Annabelle and her family are raising money for the crisis charity this Christmas, and Annabelle delivered a presentation on the charity with such confidence and enthusiasm. **Dilan (USA)** for persevering in his work, particularly in maths even when it is tricky. He is completing more activities and more challenges. **Ted (USA)** for courage for doing the right thing and being a true friend. **Bowie (USA)** for creativity in her writing a diary as Ajay from the class reader, 'The Accidental President'. **Josh W (Chi)** for wisdom: for trying his hardest and excelling in some very tricky maths! **Ross (Chi)** for service: for having a brilliant week full of excellent learning and exemplary behaviour. **Arlo (Chi)** and **Delilah (Chi)** for discussing bullying in RHE in a mature and thoughtful manner. **Tommy B (Mex)** for compassion as he continues to check in on a member of staff. **Lucy C (SA)** for responsibility and for using your initiative to tidy an area of the classroom without being asked. **Oscar M (SA)** for thoughtfulness and for going out of your way to help other children to understand the long division process. **Poppy P (Chi)** and **Alicia B (Mex)** for creativity as you were working with great focus to produce some beautiful pieces of artwork.


Achievements –



Daniel (Jap) - raced for Atlantis and got 8 PBs, a silver medal, two bronze medals and 200m



Ben G (NZ) - completed his red belt grading in Karate



Olly G (SA) – Man of the Match in football



Martha (NZ) - moved up from her orange belt in her karate grading.



Edward S & James H (NZ) – achieved Stage F in guitar



Alfie C (NZ) – achieved Orange belt in Karate

American **ALL STARS**

Thursday 16th January 2025

MAINS

Burger and Chips
Mac & Cheese

SIDES

Sweetcorn or Baked Beans
Seasonal Salad

DESSERT

Frosted Vanilla Celebration Cake

Order via [ParentPay](#) no later than Thursday 2nd January 2025



**ALL-TIME GREATS FROM THE
UNITED STATES**

