



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



# NEWSLETTER

**“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum”**

**Hope, perseverance and courage**

Telephone: 01798 872007

14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

All of the children have made us so proud this week. What a lovely week with the Nativities, the Christmas Eucharist and other celebrations. It has also been lovely to see so many parents and chat with them.

**Attendance certificates** – Attendance certificates will be coming home next week for those children who have 100% attendance for this term. We are keen to get attendance as high as possible as there is a direct link between attendance and those getting to Age Related Expectation. Please continue to support us with this.

**Update from Christingle** – The Christingle service raised £248.92 collected in total. Thank you to all those contributed.

**Operation Crackdown** – Please could I remind you to park considerately around the school. Residents will contact 'Operation Crackdown' if they are concerned about cars and the parking.

**PTA update** – This term we have made over £3,500 from all the events, raffles and donations. Payments of £2,300 have been made to the school including paying for the pantomime, crackers for Christmas lunch and book bags for reception. There is also a group of Year 6 parents who have been fundraising for the Big Top and they have made £1,724 towards their £2,500 target this term - thank you for your support. We are always looking for new members. If anybody would like to join the events committee just speak to the PTA on the playground or drop us an email [pta@friendsofstmarys.net](mailto:pta@friendsofstmarys.net).

**Rock Steady** – We had a fantastic concert from Rock Steady as they finished the term. It was great to see the children playing a range of instruments and using their musical skills. Their performance skills have developed hugely and it was great to see how much confidence they had in their own abilities. If you are interested in your child coming to Rock Steady sessions, then please contact the School Office for more details.



**Chartwells Christmas Meal** – Thank you to all those who have signed up for the Chartwells Christmas meal. It is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Early Years/KS1 is 12- 12.40pm and KS2 is 12.50pm – 1.30pm. We would like some helpers for this. If you can give some time, please let the school office know. Many thanks in anticipation.



**Stable by Starlight** – Magical would be the word to describe the two performances that UK and Austria took part in this week. Thank you to everyone who helped with costumes, rehearsals and getting the children ready. They loved being up on the stage and it was a true reflection of the meaning of Christmas.



**The Magical Christmas Jigsaw** – The puzzle pieces came together for this performance when the Year 1 and 2 put on their show. The enthusiasm they showed was amazing and they sang, acted and danced with such confidence. Thank you to all that came and for everyone that supported them.



**Eucharist** – The true meaning of Christmas came across at our Eucharist with some children from UK and Austria performing as well as the choir singing and Father Paul talking to the children about God's love at this special time of year. Thank you to the parents who came and supported.

**Vine leaves – Alexander in New Zealand Class** – Generosity - For being the first to offer his choir jumper to someone else when he realised there were not enough for everyone. **Eric in UK Class** - Kindness and compassion – for putting a reassuring arm around someone when they were upset. **Josh (Japan)** For his compassion shown to someone at the Disco who had lost their goodies. **Scarlett (France)** for kindness when someone forgot their party clothes and she offered her clothes to help this child.

**Little Explorers** - This week the children have been making snowmen using letters of their name printed on snow balls for letter recognition. We have been making salt dough decorations and decorating biscuits. We have also been singing Christmas songs and listening to Christmas stories. Outside the children have been digging in the giant sandpit and splashing in puddles as well as using chalk to draw around items the children have found.

**School milk for over 5's PARENT REGISTRATIONS FOR OVER 5'S** - We'd be grateful if you would encourage parents to register their over-5 children for school milk. We have a wide range of promotional material available on request, including parent registration forms in multiple languages – or you can just use the version attached to this mail. Visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/promote/> for more information.

**Our school milk scheme** - Did you know our school has a school milk scheme?

By registering your child for our school milk scheme they will receive a 189ml (third of a pint) carton of semi-skimmed milk every day. This is delivered fresh and chilled to their classroom every day.

**"How much does it cost?"** - Thanks to government subsidies, school milk is free for all under-fives and is subsidised at around £15 a term for children aged five or older.

**"Why should I register my child?"** - School milk provides your child with essential nutrients such as calcium and protein, for strong, healthy teeth and bones. It is also rehydrating and energy boosting, helping to bridge the long gap between breakfast and lunch so children stay focused.

**“How do I register my child?”** - If your child is under five-

1. Go to [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) or pick up a form from school.
  2. Just register by a Tuesday for your child's free milk to start the following week.
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1. Free milk will continue until the Friday before your child's fifth birthday. You will receive a payment request three weeks before this time- if you wish for your child to continue to receive school milk simply make a payment.

If your child is over five-

1. Go to [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) or pick up a form from school.
2. Pay Cool Milk online, over the phone, at a local PayPoint or by cheque in instalments to suit you. If registering online you can pay straight away, if using a registration form you will need to wait to receive a payment request.
3. Just pay by a Tuesday for your child's milk to start the following week.

**“How do I find out more?”** - Visit [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) or contact Cool Milk directly on 0844 854 2913.

**Performance data** – The performance tables have been released by the Government and our KS2 attainment data was disappointing especially in Maths. We had some real successes across the school though with 88% of Early Years achieving a good level of development. This is the highest percentage of children for three years. Year 1 phonics score is the highest for three years as well with 87% of children achieving the standards. Key Stage One data shows more strengths in Maths for the majority and children working at greater depth has improved. The monitoring of lessons and books shows there is evidence of progress right across the school and all the teachers are looking forward to sharing this at parent's evenings in the Spring Term. We are constantly striving to improve the teaching and learning for the children and so school priorities have been identified and are being worked on. School priorities are improving attendance of our children, helping the children with test situations, progress to be rapid in all year groups across reading, writing and maths and to raise Maths attainment in Key Stage 2. We also want to improve the engagement of all children but especially boys. The website has the School priorities laid out if you wish to have a more detailed look.

**Report by William Orrell** – On the 10<sup>th</sup> December the Reception classes performed an excellent nativity called Stable By Starlight featuring songs such as 'Going to be counted', 'no more room', 'Where's the star' to name a few. There were all kinds of people such as shepherds, kings, Mary and Joseph and of course, baby Jesus. The audience looked like they were enjoying themselves. I even saw some stomping their feet! My rating is ten out of ten and I am sure everyone else felt the same.

**Led By A Star** – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December is Led By A Star. A lantern procession following a giant star will start at The Chequers at 6pm or the village hall at 6.30pm and there will be a visit by Santa and his elves and some singing from our school choir. It is organised by the local churches and some of the profits will be coming back to the school.

**New Premises Officer** – It is with great sadness that I let you know that Mr Stevens has left us but we are happy to announce that Sian Elliott has been appointed. Some of you may already know Sian as she assists in the running of Jiminy's.

**Snow** – There is always the threat of snow at this time of year. This is the link to our snow policy. If it does snow then notifications will be on our website and on local radio stations. [file:///C:/Users/secretary.SMPDOMAIN/Downloads/Snow\\_Plan\\_for\\_Parents\\_2018-19%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/secretary.SMPDOMAIN/Downloads/Snow_Plan_for_Parents_2018-19%20(1).pdf)

**Arts and Craft Recycling club** – Are you arty and able to save the environment and earn money for the school? Well join the Arts and Crafts Recycling club on Monday lunch time to make a range of exciting things out of crisp packets, which is one waste product that can't be recycled...until now. If you are interested, please do let us know you would like to join the club. If anyone has any empty crisp packets, please collect, as we would like as many as possible.

**End of term** – We, at St Mary's CofE (Aided) Primary School, would like to thank everyone for the huge amounts of support we have had this term. We have the most phenomenal team at St Mary's who give above and beyond to make sure that your children get the very best. It has been fantastic to see the school go from strength to strength and make a real difference to the children. Please have a fun, safe and enjoyable Christmas and Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** with lots of stories of their holiday times.

