

The St Mary's News



Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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A note from Mr Cox, Mrs Brewer and Mr Finlay,

Hello and welcome to St Mary's news.

WOW, we have nearly made it to Christmas! If you are feeling anything like me, then you cannot believe that Christmas is upon us. Although Christmas is going to be a little different for us all, here at St Mary's we are fully embracing the Christmas period.

The classrooms have all started to be decorated. Our amazing Reception class have put on a Nativity play and recorded it for their parents to view. Next week we are having Christmas lunch on Thursday and film afternoons happening in classes. We might even be having a visit from the man in a red suit!

The Children will also be having Christmas parties. These will happen on Friday 18th in the afternoon. The children can bring in and wear their Christmas jumpers and Christmas hats. Due to current restrictions the parties will be based in the classrooms and I ask please that the children bring in their own individual portion of party food/a snack in a container.

Other news:-

A couple of weeks ago, Mr Finlay entered Year 3 and Year 4 into a Playground Pentathlon. We had the results yesterday and St Marys came top in the girls' section with a HUGE score of 793, 23 points ahead of the second placed team. The boys also came top with a MASSIVE score of 766, 5 points ahead of our nearest rival. In the individual boy's competition Alex came first with a point total of 220 which was 43 ahead of the second placed boy.

WELL DONE TEAM ST MARY'S!

The school virtual tour is now in post-production and we had a great day recording some great footage of the children. I will let you know when this is able to be viewed.

Darcey in Year 6 has come runner up in the Dolce Snowman competition and her prize is a £10 voucher. Well done Darcey!



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff at St Mary's to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year and that you get the opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones. The children have done amazingly well since September and I am very proud of all that they have achieved, especially with all that is going on at the moment.

This Christmas, possibly more than any before, is going to be a time to spend with people, enjoying each other's company and taking time to recharge after a very different year. Please take the time to enjoy the simple things, look after yourselves and each other, have a great time and I will look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

A message from Mrs Parsons

We've made it through the Autumn term!

As we approach the end of another year, which for many of us has been the most challenging we have ever experienced, I would like to thank you all – children, parents, carers and our staff team for working so hard to help to keep everyone safe. Although school has been very different in many ways, our core values and the support staff have given to our children both academically and emotionally has continued. I am exceptionally proud of the maturity shown by our children and the professionalism of our tremendous staff. We have been very fortunate to remain open and not to have to close bubbles. Our children have played an important role in remembering social distancing, remembering to clean their hands and in following all of our Covid rules. They have helped us all to stay safe.

I hope that Christmas, in whatever form it takes for you this year, is a time for you to gather your family together and enjoy the things that are really important in life.

Have a great holiday and we look forward to seeing you back in January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and take care.

Message from the Chair of Governors

"As we approach the final week of the term, I thought I would give a brief update on the new Joint Governing Body that has been established to provide governance to St Mary's School since joining the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. Understandably, given the circumstances, our main focus since formation has been ensuring that the school is meeting the social and learning needs of your children following the school closure in the Spring and Summer. As you may be aware, the Governing Body is for both St Mary's and Trinity Church School in line with Mrs Parsons' Executive Headship of both schools; we already have good representation from both school communities but we do still have a vacancy for a parent (or carer) Governor for St Mary's. A letter detailing how you can nominate yourself for election has been sent out, if you have any questions about what the role entails, please do feel free to email me on jen.hird@msnpartnership.com.

Finally, I want to wish you all a merry Christmas on behalf of the Governing Body. We've now reached the point in December where every other song on the radio is Christmas themed; everyone has their favourite - for me, it's Shakin' Stevens "Merry Christmas, Everyone!" (appreciate I'm showing my age here!). However, when it comes to Christmas Carols my favourite has always been 'In the bleak midwinter'. This year, more than any other, the words hit home; the pandemic has affected us all in different ways, and there is no doubt that Christmas, just like Eid and Diwali, will look very different to years gone by. Nevertheless, it's good to remember that whatever the circumstances of your celebrations this year, we all have the capacity to 'give our heart'."

Celebrations

What have we really enjoyed this week in school?

Reception:

Reception have had a great time learning about the Christmas story and then created an amazing Nativity performance for their parents.

Year 1:

This week they had an amazing time making and testing jam sandwiches.

Year 2:

Year 2 have had a great time designing glove puppets.

Year 3:

Year 3 completed a great D.T. project by building their own pneumatic toys. Very impressive Year 3.

Year 4:

This week Year 4 have got to grips with column multiplication. Well done Year 4.

Year 5:

Year 5 produced some incredible rain forest artwork as part of their learning all about the rain forests around the world.

Year 6:

Year 6 have had great fun tasting and then making mince pies.



Stars of the week

Reception: Martha, Violet, Bobby

Year 1: Emily R, Joe P, Eliza

Year 2: Willow, Jackson, Edith

Year 3: Ava, Zach, Jasmine

Year 4: Freddie B, Mia, Digby

Year 5: Poppy B, Elizabeth, Noah

Year 6: Summer, Lily, Alex

School development Updates:

This term we have spent time ensuring consistence across the school and putting systems in place to ensure that is the case. We have also had some visits from the Trust's team looking at subject leadership, developing and supporting the teachers in making sure that all children receive a good or better level of education across the range of subjects.

We have purchased some new software for the children to use. One of them is Purple Mash which covers a wide range of subjects and is great to use in the classroom. The other is called Accelerated Reader which is a library system that grades books and supports children's reading and comprehension. Staff will be receiving training on these in the new year and then they will start to be used by the children.

A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school to speak to Mr Finlay, Mrs Brewer, Mrs Purnell or Mr Cox. The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

Community Wellbeing Hub (formerly called the Compassionate Community Hub).

I have attached a copy of a flyer, reminding everyone of the free support that there is available to all, especially in these challenging times.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

0300 247 0050 **EMAIL: BATHNES.thehub@virginicare.co.uk**
WEBSITE: www.compassioncb.org.uk/wellbeing

Housing

Feeling isolated, lonely or anxious

Money advice & benefits support

Stopping smoking

Accessing food, transport or medication

Achieving a healthy weight

Keeping active

Employment issues & advice

3SG NHS **virginicare** **Bath & North East Somerset Council**
Improving People's Lives

TERM DATES 2020-2021

Term	Start	End	INSET
1	Tuesday 1 st September 2020	Wednesday 21 st October 2020	Tuesday 1 st September 2020 Wednesday 2 nd September 2020
2	Monday 2 nd November 2020	Friday 18 th December 2020	Monday 2 nd November 2020
3	Monday 4 th January 2021	Friday 12 th February 2021	Monday 4 th January 2021 Tuesday 5 th January 2021
4	Monday 22 nd February 2021	Thursday 1 st April 2021	
5	Monday 19 th April 2021	Friday 28 th May 2021	
6	Monday 7 th June 2021	Friday 23 rd July 2021	



MERRY CHRISTMAS!