



St Mary's CE Primary Academy

Living, Learning and Growing Together

Newsletter 11

3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another week has flown by and it has suddenly begun to feel very festive here in school. It has been lovely listening to Pippin Class practise their upcoming Nativity, singing and dancing with such enthusiasm. We would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Baker for their kind donation of a Christmas tree. We will be decorating this on Monday and the children cannot wait.

Throughout the next two weeks, we have much to look forward to. Pippin Class will be performing their Nativity in the Church on Wednesday 15th December at 2pm. At this service, we are also planning short performances by the Strings group and choir. Our plan is currently to extend our invitation for this event to parents however this needs to be fully risk-assessed and more information regarding this will follow. Children are also very much looking forward to Tuesday when they will visit The Quay Climbing Centre as a reward for their hard work and perseverance this term.

Please do also note several upcoming events- for details, see the Diary Dates section at the end of this newsletter. Staff have enjoyed speaking to parents this week—it has been lovely to chat about the progress the children have made.

The second candle of advent, as we enter week two of this season, is often used to reflect the theme of peace, the Hebrew word 'shalom'. Advent is a time to reflect and this week simply reflecting on the ingredients that bring peace to you and bring peace to others, may help you to find some inner peace.

Class News

Pippin Class have had a surprise visitor this week, their naughty elf. He has been really cheeky and has even written on the windows! He thinks Pippin class can't show him their knowledge of number bonds... but he was proved wrong - Year 1 wrote all the number bonds to 10 on the window and Year 2 wrote lots of number bonds to 100. Pippin Class also visited St Mary's church at the start of the week. The children showed their knowledge surrounding the nativity stained glass window, and learned that in the stained glass windows, Jesus is the only person who is looking at you. The children really enjoyed their trip to the church.

"I enjoyed the trip to the church because I saw Jesus in the stained glass window"
- Ethan "I liked seeing baby Jesus" - Maple

"I liked the windows because Jesus was only looking at us" - Matilda

A huge thankyou to our Chair of Governors, Miss Davis and Churchwarden Mrs Roughton for helping to organise the visit alongside Mrs Barnes who met us in the church.

This week in Orchard Class, we completed our 'electricity' unit by asking children to design and create a set of traffic lights. All children participated well with some children being able to complete circuits which allowed one bulb to be switched on at a time. Our work in Science has linked in brilliantly with our Geography this week where we have been exploring Natural Resources. This led into lots of great discussion on the topic of Climate Change, with some children linking this knowledge to report writing in English. We had some fabulous outcomes, so well done all!



"Dear God
Calm my restless brain, loosen
the knots of tension
And touch my heart
So that your peace, your shalom,
may permeate my whole being
As gently as flowing water
Amen"



Breakfast and After School Club

Thank you to Mr Coliandris who visited After School Club this week to talk about his work as a Nursing Practitioner. The children enjoyed trying out his stethoscope, pulse oximeter and tuning fork!

Apologies that we have had to cancel After School Club on a couple of occasions this week due to staff shortages. We hope to run next week but will let parents know as soon as we can in the event of any further cancellations.



Christmas Jumper Day - December 10th 2021

Please send your children to school wearing a Christmas Jumper (otherwise in normal school uniform) to raise money for Save the Children, this is a National Event that the PFA are helping to organise in Thorncombe St Mary's. Donations of £1 per child please.

Christmas Lunch and Last Day of Term

This year, instead of a party lunch on the last day of term, the PFA will be providing some party snacks and treats for a class party in the afternoon. Please order hot lunches or bring packed lunches as usual for this day. Our lunch supplier, the Acorn kitchen in Axminster, are doing a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 15th December which is available to order via ParentPay. There are three puddings available—chocolate yule log, jelly or Christmas pudding. We can only add one choice to ParentPay, so please once you have ordered, email your child's pudding choice to the office and we will make sure it is ordered for them. Thank you!

Message from Andrea Rice, Acorn Trust CEO

We are very sad to announce that Mrs Aspinall will be leaving St Mary's Primary Academy at the end of the autumn term. I know you will agree with me that Mrs Aspinall has played such a huge role in the school and has always been totally committed to the welfare of the children and families who have been part of the school. She will leave a huge hole in the heart of the school and we wish her well in her new endeavours. Mrs Aspinall, thank you for everything you have done and the care and support you have given.

We are currently advertising for a new administrator for 5 days per week 8.30-3.45pm and will appoint as soon as possible. In the meantime Michelle Crabb from the hub team will be based at Thorncombe to provide support from January.

Following on from the news about Miss Smith last week, I am delighted to inform you that Megan Bernard will be in school from Monday 13th December to work alongside Miss Smith and get to know the children and parents before the end of term. She is very excited to be joining the school and is looking forward to meeting you all. Please do feel free to say hello as you drop off your child.

Golden Apples

Congratulations to Maple and Marley who were awarded Golden Apples this week as part of our Positive Relationships and Behaviour code in school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Kind Regards,

Miss Smith and the team at St Mary's.



Diary Dates

Tues 7th Dec	School Trip to Clip & Climb Exeter
Fri 10th Dec	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Tue 14 Dec 6pm	Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Thorncombe
Weds 15 Dec 2pm	Pippin Nativity and Orchard Music Performance at St Mary's Church
Fri 17th December	Last Day of Term