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December 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and friends of St Mary's,

As always we are left smiling at the end of a very busy term. The smiles are due to your children and the way in which they show respect for everyone and everything they do.

The term started extremely well as we welcomed our Reception children. It is hard to believe that they have been here such a short time as I watch them walk confidently around the school.

Our 2 school values of Love and Determination have been demonstrated in so many ways this term. As always we are very proud of our children. I have lost count of the huge number of compliments that we receive when our children go out on a trip. Even the bus drivers regularly say how wonderful our children are!

I want to wish every family a Happy Christmas and say a huge thank you for your kindness and generosity this term – it really has been staggeringly fabulous!

Swimming Updates - KS2



After 6 weeks of swimming lessons, our children in Year 5 have made good progress. 23/27 children made considerable progress in their swimming distance. Non swimmers reduced from 7 children to just 4 children. Our children that could swim 25m increased from 5 children to 12 children.

In Year 6, 30/34 children made good progress in distance and/or ability and technique. At the start of lessons 16 children could competently swim 25m at the end of lessons this had increased to 26 children. 13 children made significant progress in their swimming distances.

All children have also received a valuable lesson in water safety, ask them what they have learnt!

It will be Year 4's turn to swim next in January, details to follow.

Thank you for your support towards the swimming coach costs, it really does make a difference, thank you.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please can we remind parents that regular and punctual school attendance is important. Pupils need to attend school regularly if they are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. Children need to be in school on time and are encouraged to develop a good attendance habit.

Children who are persistently late or absent soon fall behind with their learning. Children who are absent from school frequently develop large gaps in their learning which will impact on their progress. A child whose attendance drops to 90% each year will, over their time at primary school, have missed two whole terms of learning.

Doors are open from 8.50 a.m. to assist in getting children in on time.

Our attendance policy can be found on the school website, this policy also gives information on reporting sickness absences.

Carol Singing

A selection of children from each of the junior classes went along Carol singing in Asda. The children sang superbly and raised valuable funds for school – (still to be counted!) Thanks to Asda for allowing us to come in and sing and to Mrs Hazlehurst for helping to arrange.



Christingle



There was a fabulous turn out to the Christingle service at St Mary's Church last week, it was delightful to see the children learn of the origin of the service and hear them sing along with family and friends. Thank you for supporting the school and children in this.

Important dates

Reminder school closes at 2pm on Friday 21st December
Thursday 3rd January school reopens
Monday 7th January - Clubs restart
Friday 11th January – Y4 start swimming
Wednesday 16th January – Family Assembly
Thursday 24th January – Year 6 Class Assembly
Wednesday 6th February – Family Assembly
Wednesday 13th February - Break Up for half term at 2 p.m.

From all the staff at St Mary's we wish you and your families a very

*Merry
Christmas*

and best wishes for the New Year