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November 2016 Newsletter

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

We have just found out that we raised a great £197 for Children In Need. Thank you for your kind donations – we will ensure that the charity get the money asap. In addition, from your generosity, we have collected many shoe boxes just full of wonderful goodies for children in poorer countries. We are looking forward to Christmas, and as usual it will be a busy period.

Nursery Wellie Walk

In September the Nursery did a Sponsored Welly Walk in order to buy a Welly Stand for the Nursery to hold all our wellies. This has been a great piece of equipment. So much money was raised that the materials for a lovely big outdoor sandpit could be bought as well. Then the skills of our Site Manager were put to the test! The children and staff are absolutely thrilled with their new sandpit which is taking their imaginative and physical skills to a new level!! They can't thank Martin enough.

Governor news

Mrs Theresa Worrall has become our new Chair of Governors. Many of you will know Theresa from our family worship sessions. We are very grateful for all the time and energy she puts into our school. Tony Mitchell has become the Vice Chair of the Governing Body. Tony has been chair for a number of years and we'd like to say a huge thank you for all his commitment and support to St Mary's. We know this will continue in his new role as Vice Chair. As always if you wish to speak with any of our Governors, they are contactable via the school office. Each Governor has linked to a particular class. They spend a day a term with the children and teachers. This link is proving very insightful and all Governors have reported what great learning experiences and warm relationships are present in each year group.

Christingle Service

We are delighted to be able to offer you the opportunity to participate in a Christingle Service at St Mary's church on Thursday 15th December at 3.30pm. It will be a great time of celebration, whilst helping children who are in desperate need. Tony will lead us in songs, prayers and readings and a highlight of the service will be lighting the candles – a moment of awe and wonder. As a school we will facilitate making the Christingle candle, but it will be every parent's responsibility to take their child to the service and to sit with and supervise them whilst they are there. School will also have collection candles available for any family that wishes to contribute to this worthy cause.

School Pick ups

Each week we are left with a few children who have not been collected on time. The regularity of this is increasing and it understandably causing concern to us. We fully understand that parents can be caught in traffic etc. and we are happy to facilitate this when it does happen. What causes concern is when parents do not let us know they will be late or the contact details held by the office are out of date and we are unable to contact anyone. There have been at least 5 occasions recently when we have had to supervise children until l at least 5.30 p.m. Please make arrangements each day for your child to be picked up on time. If you are in any doubt about your contact details, please check with school office that we have current telephone numbers. If there is a problem, please let us know asap. We really need your help with this – thank you.

Helping the community

If you know of anyone within the local community that lives alone, is elderly or just needs a bit of TLC this Christmas – please let us know. We are hoping that representatives from each class will be able to deliver a small present to a member of the village and just wish them a Merry Christmas from the children at St Mary's. We need 8 names and addresses for this to be possible. If you know of anyone please let the school office have their names and addresses.

Nursery Open afternoon

We do have some spaces in our Nursery this year. To promote and celebrate all the good work that goes on there (and it really is fantastic) we are holding an Open Afternoon on Tuesday 29th November 1.30 p.m. – 3 p.m. If you know of any families who might be interested, please encourage them to come along and have a look.

Named Uniform

Please can you ensure that all your children's belongings are named, this includes uniform, PE kit, shoes, coats and even water bottles. Staff are spending a long time trying to reunite 'missing' items with their owners and are finding many items unnamed.

The Hope Journey

On the morning of Friday 2nd Dec, the Year 2 children are going to go on a local walk to the Trinity Methodist Church to experience the 'HOPE journey'. The HOPE journey is a re-enactment of the Christmas story, where the children will meet the characters of the nativity from Mary and Joseph to the donkey. The children will enjoy a drink and a biscuit and will have the opportunity to make a decoration.

Eco Warrior News

It has been National 'Switch off fortnight' and our Eco Warriors have been leading the way in St Mary's. They carried out a full audit of how we are using electricity in school before the initiative began and they will repeat the audit at the end to see whether our behaviour has altered. The Eco Warriors have shown real determination (our current school value) to save energy and money and have been switching off lights and equipment when not needed. Well done to all our Eco-Committee members (pupils, staff and parents) for their support.

Scholastic Book Club orders

Thank you once again for your book orders. This term over £250 worth of orders were placed which means school will receive more books for your child to read and enjoy in school. The next Scholastic Book Club magazine will be distributed at the end of the Spring term. Any queries about orders, please contact Mrs Macauley. Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

Important Dates

- Thursday 24th November – Y5 Dance Extravaganza at St Chad's
- Monday 28th November – Judo Assembly
- Monday 28th November – Year 5 & 6 – The Heath Grease Performance
- Thursday 8th December – KS2 Panto St Helens Theatre Royal
- Monday 12th December – Reception Christmas trip, Anderton Boat Lift
- Wednesday 14th December 9.30 a.m. – KS2 (Juniors) Christmas Service – Parents Invited
- Thursday 15th December – Nursery Christmas Concert, 11.00 a.m.
- Thursday 15th December – Christingle Service, St Mary's Church 3.30 p.m.
- Friday 16th December – KS1 (Infants) Nativity Performance 10.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.
- Monday 19th December - KS1 (Infants) Nativity Performance 10.00 a.m.
- Tuesday 20th December – Church Service, whole school, Children only.
- Tuesday 20th December – KS1 Disco – 2.45 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.
  KS2 Disco – 4.00 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.
- Wednesday 21st December – Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
- Wednesday 21st December – Break up for Christmas Holiday – Finish at 2 p.m.