



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

*"I can do all things"*

*Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation*

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Newsletter 07

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness



## Ofsted Celebrations

Last week, we had a special assembly where we celebrated Ofsted coming to our school. This is because when Ofsted came to our school they said that our school is really fabulous.

Lots of adults who have helped in our school came to this special assembly because it wasn't just one of us that made this happen, it was all of us that helped us achieve Outstanding. Everyone was given a medal which said 'Ofsted Outstanding 2024' on the bottom of them.

In the assembly, the Year 6 House Captains came to the stage and held up a banner that said 'Outstanding in all areas.' You might see this banner in our local area.

A photographer came to our school and took photos of all the pupils wearing the medals; some of the teachers held up the banner.

Everyone that works at this school is very proud of our achievement and we are thankful for everyone who helped us achieve this.

By Pippi, Emily R and Aidan.



## House Points Winners



Well done to our House Point Winners for the Term **TOPAZ!**

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations to **Foxes** for having excellent attendance at **98%** last week. This week's champions are **Badgers** with **100%** attendance - well done.

## INSET days

Please be aware, that we have one INSET date coming up:

**\*\*MONDAY 6th JANUARY\*\***

The school will be closed to children on this date.

Term 3 begins on Tuesday 7th January.

## Great Timsbury Bake Off!

Thank you!!

We raised a huge **£281.60** for the PTA!

This money will make a valuable difference to the activities that the PTA funds for the children of St Mary's!



# Christmas at St.Mary's

At St Mary's, we have been doing a lot of Christmas activities including the Nativity, the Christingle service, Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and Christmas fayre.

## Y1 And Y2 Nativity

On Tuesday last week, Year 1 and Year 2 did a Nativity which was called the Boogie Woogie Nativity. The Nativity was about these animals that were going to have a concert but then Jesus was born in their stables where they were performing. They were going to cancel the concert but then Mary and Joseph said that they liked the music and so did baby Jesus.

## Christmas Fayre

Last Friday, we had a Christmas fayre which took place after school in the hall. Every class had a stall which the pupils could help out at. The Year 2 classroom and the hall was full of stalls that had games, activities, jolly jars, food and lots more.

## Reception And Nursery Nativity

On Monday, the Reception and Nursery did a Nativity called Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. It was all about an angel who was really clumsy and was never given an important job. Then at the end she was given a job. She had to go to Bethlehem to tell the shepherds that Jesus was going to be born in the stable where the animals were kept.

## Christmas Dinner

This Wednesday, we had a Christmas dinner. For our Christmas dinner we had turkey, stuffing and roast potatoes with gravy and some Brussels sprouts or peas or even cooked carrots. We also have Christmas crackers that had paper crowns, a card with a joke on it and a mini notebook.

## Christingle Service

In the church on Thursday, the Worship Champions did a Christingle service and talked about the orange representing the Earth, the ribbon representing the blood of Jesus, the cocktail sticks representing the four seasons, the sweets representing the fruits of the Earth and the candle representing the light of the Earth. They also read readings from the Bible.

We have also worn Christmas jumpers to school and decorated some Christmas tree decorations to go on our Christmas tree in the hall. It's been a fun festive season at St Mary's.

By Pippi, Emily R and Aidan.



## Thank you!

Cam Plant Hire and JRS Aggregates, thank you so much for your generous donation of Christmas Trees! They looked beautiful and the After School Club loved decorating them.

Also, thank you to Bath Stone Property for including us in their 12 Days of Christmas School Prize Draw - we were gifted a lovely phonics set for the early years setting.



# Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award - keep up the great work!

<b>Ducklings</b>	Dylan
<b>Rabbits</b>	Vinny
<b>Badgers</b>	Albie
<b>Foxes</b>	Martha & Joe
<b>Lions</b>	Cooper
<b>Eagles</b>	Jenson



## Outside Achievements



Well done to **Noah** for receiving a Blue Peter Badge and **Florence** for being recognised as Star of the Day at Gymnastics.



## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

Wow, what a fantastic term we have had in Hedgehogs! It has flown by with all the fun we have been having. The children loved practicing the songs for our Nativity 'Whoops-a-daisy Angel' and didn't they do a fantastic job! We are so proud of them all.

We have enjoyed creating many Christmas crafts, which we hope you enjoyed receiving this week. Some of the children enjoyed visiting Father Christmas when he came to visit us and asked a lot of great questions such as, 'How do you get into my house?' and 'Where are your reindeer?' Father Christmas was very impressed with how confident and polite they were.

Some of the children enjoyed participating in a special Ofsted Assembly and were over the moon to be awarded a special Outstanding medal!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in The New Year!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



# Ducklings



## Class News:

We have had a fantastic few weeks in Reception. The children have been reading many Christmas and Nativity stories and have loved writing letters to Father Christmas during Literacy.

You will agree that the EYFS Nativity performance of *'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'* was superb. The children practised and performed with fluency and projection. Thank you for coming to watch.

Ducklings worked hard to make their slider Christmas cards and we hope you enjoy using the calendars they created for 2025.

All of the Ducklings staff would like to thank you for your fantastic support and the cards/gifts you have given us. We are fortunate to have such a lovely class. We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



# Rabbits



## Class News:

The last two weeks in Rabbits have been filled with many exciting events.

In English, we finished writing our poems, which were all about fireworks. To write our poems, we thought carefully about how fireworks sound and how they move. We then took the time to edit our writing carefully. They are all becoming more independent writers!

Rabbits have also been very busy with the KS1 Nativity. They all did a fantastic job and I was very impressed with their loud and clear voices. Most importantly, we all had a great time! Thank you for all your support with Nativity costumes and practicing lines.

Finally, we have had a great time getting into the Christmas spirit. We watched the EYFS Nativity, and we all thought it was incredible. We especially loved the fantastic singing and all the parts that made us laugh. We enjoyed coming to school wearing Christmas jumpers. Thank you to parents for all the donations for the Christmas Fayre. Last but not least, we had a lot of fun making Christmas crafts and getting covered in glitter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all next term.

Miss Tolfree



# Badgers

## Class News:



We have had a busy (and exciting) two weeks in Badgers!

We all had a wonderful time practicing and performing our Nativity. With three performances, it was a busy week! All of Badgers performed fantastically, with loud, clear voices and obvious enjoyment. Well done, especially to those who took on extra last-minute roles and lines!

Badgers have worked hard mounting their artwork for the term and enjoyed sharing it in an exhibition for the Rabbit class.

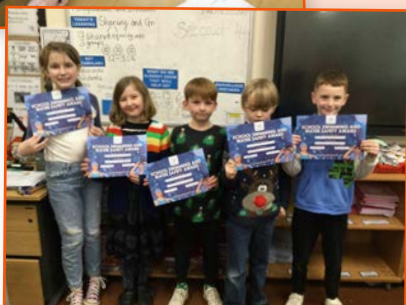
We have been getting into the Christmas spirit in English this week, writing our own Kennings poems. Which Nativity character is being described?

Pretty halo,  
White dress,  
Lovely, feathery wings,  
Shimmering in the moonlight,  
Filled with tender love.

We would like to thank you for your fantastic support and the cards/gifts that you have given us. We have had an excellent first two terms this year and are very lucky to have such a brilliant class.

We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

Miss Heath



# Foxes

## Class News:



We have had a grand final few weeks of term in Foxes.

In English, we have been writing Christmas haiku poems. Originating in Japan, they have a 5-7-5 syllable pattern to them. The children had great fun thinking of words matching the syllable pattern and creating some super festive poems.

In History, we continued learning about the Romans and enjoyed welcoming parents and family to help create some Roman shields. The finished results were brilliant and the children enjoyed thinking carefully about their designs and looking at some historical artefacts, to ensure their finished design was authentic.

In Science, the children had to help the elves at the North

Pole as their sleigh was frozen to the ground. So, they conducted an experiment to see which substance (flour, salt or sugar) would melt the ice the quickest and turn it from a solid back into a liquid.

Finally, the children were thrilled to all be awarded a swimming certificate to show their amazing progress since September in swimming.

It's been a brilliant term and the children have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm and focus across all areas of their learning.

Wishing you all a very merry and relaxing Christmas - see you next year!

Mrs Brown

# Lions



## Class News:

What a brilliant term we have had in the Year 5 Lions classroom.

All of our pupils are demonstrating super progress and have really developed as focused, motivated, independent learners which has been amazing to see. Everyone has certainly ended 2024 in fine style and set themselves up to have a brilliantly successful 2025.

Thank you to all family members who visited our recent DT Workshop. There was a real buzz of excitement and enjoyment in the classroom, with so many of you attending. We very much appreciated your help with the pop-up books we are making.

In PE, we have begun developing some hockey skills and have enjoyed finding out the different ways you can use the stick to control the ball. Did you

know that everybody has to play hockey right-handed and that you can only hit the ball with the flat side of the stick? It has taken some getting used to but we are already mastering it!

We love this time of the year and everybody has maintained their enthusiasm for learning whilst enjoying the Christmas music and the decorated classroom which has given a very festive feeling to our working environment. Thank you to our team who were given the very important responsibility of putting up and decorating our classroom tree. Great job!

We hope you all have an amazing holiday and we'll see you again in the New Year.

Happy Christmas, everyone!

Mr Daniels



# Eagles



## Class News:

What a brilliant end to 2024 we have had in Eagles.

I am so proud of the children's progress in this first part of the academic year! They are a determined bunch and work hard in all curriculum areas. I know that they will keep this up in 2025!

This week, we had a lovely parent workshop where the children could demonstrate their excellent sewing skills. It was very relaxing and the parents who attended found it as fun as the children.

Eagles have spent a morning getting to know Miss Woods this week. She was impressed with their behaviour and enjoyed getting to know all of them. She is looking forward to seeing them again in January!

We have finished our fractions unit in Maths and finished the term with an arithmetic paper (it doesn't sound

like much fun, but the children loved it!). I was immensely impressed and proud of all of the children. Everybody's score improved from last time with some quadrupling!!

In English, we have written comparative poems using 'The Frozen Man' by Kit Wright as inspiration. The children produced some very thought-provoking pieces of writing that compared light and dark.

Finally, we have had lots of Christmas fun! We enjoyed watching the KS1 and EYFS nativities and wrote congratulatory letters to our buddies. We had hot chocolate and a movie afternoon with Year 2 and a lovely Christmas lunch!

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year! We're looking forward to welcoming you all back in 2025!

Mrs Newman



# Year 5 & 6 Football tournament

We played an outstanding Football Tournament in early December at the small schools' **BANES Football Tournament**. We played our first match against a very talented St.Benedicts team and lost 2-0. Next, we played Farrington and we won by an extraordinary 7 goals to nil. This meant that we played our next game in the tournament's quarter-finals against Trinity. It was a closely fought contest, finishing 1-1 after extra time. The game went to penalties and we lost the penalty shootout 3-1. It was a heartbreaking way to lose. All of the team played exceptionally well and worked hard throughout the tournament. Well done to Charlie B, Charlie W, Jude, Arthur, Ronnie, Oscar, Joe, Eddie and Stanley for representing the school so well.



# Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala

Well done to the children who participated in the small schools' Swimming Gala in early December. Spike, Ben, Oscar, Archie, Zach, Casper, Rachel, Emily R, Phoebe and Pippi swam brilliantly. Overall, we finished in 5th place (out of 10 schools). Spike won the individual 25m Freestyle race! Oscar won the 50m Freestyle and the 25m Butterfly! Phoebe won 2 bronze medals for 50m Freestyle and 25m Butterfly. We were incredibly proud of the whole swimming team; they all represented the school with distinction.



# RECEPTION SEPT 25

REMINDER - the closing date for on-time Reception/ Junior Transfer applications for September 2025 is **15th January 2025**.

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-primary-school-place-reception-1>

## Book Fair and Book and Biscuit Event



Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Book Fair over the last week! It was a great success and we are looking forward to hearing back about how much money we raised to purchase more books for the children!

## Advent

This week, we focussed on Advent.

The Advent season is a four week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates "coming" or "arrival". It is a time when Christians prepare for the celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ. The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. The four themes are: hope, preparation, joy and love. Churches across the world light one candle per week to mark each week. For many families, Advent calendars carry the message of anticipation and hope in the run up to Christmas.



*Big Question*

**"How can we spend our time preparing for Christmas by thinking about others? Especially those less fortunate than ourselves?"**



# EYE CODES INFORMATION & DEADLINES

Entitlement funding starts in the funding period following the eligible child's birthday, on January 1st (born 31st Dec or before), April 1 (born March 31st or before), September 1st (born August 31st or before).

## Deadline for Applying and Renewing Codes

A reminder to all parents/carers expecting working family funding in the Spring term 2025 (January to March) that they must have applied for (or renewed a code in it's Grace period) by **31st December 2024**.

We appreciate that it is a busy time of year, but we prefer to remind parents again now. In January, we do not want to explain that you can't have funding because you didn't take action in time!!.

Please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

The code application/renewal deadline applies to all children starting anytime in the whole Spring Term so if they are starting after Feb ½ term, they still need a code by 31st December 2024.

## 2- year olds funded on Low Income

Codes which BANES issues for low-income 2-year-olds, can be obtained later in the term and still used in that term as long as the child has turned two before the start of term. Codes are obtained via the parent portal: <https://parent.bathnes.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

## Some 3- and 4-year-olds have NO CODE

And remember 3 and 4-year-olds will still receive a universal funding of 15TTO (term time only) with no code. We will automatically ask if you have a code, in case you also claim extended hours.

If you are trying to apply and are having problems, please save evidence to show that you have tried to apply by the deadline. You can contact Childcare Choices on 0300 123 4097 to try to resolve the issue.

## Codes for parents returning to work/starting a new job

For parents returning to work/starting a new job, as long as they will be returning/starting work by 31st January 2025, they must still apply for a code before 31st December 2024. They may need to speak directly with Childcare Choices on 0300 123 4097.

For the latest news regarding 30 hours EYE and Tax Free Childcare visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

## Reminders (Office)



*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*We are delighted to welcome Ms Rose Govey to St Mary's. Ms Govey will join me in the School Office from Term 3 as Admin / Receptionist.*

And it wouldn't be an office message if it didn't include the following reminder...

Please book school-prepared lunches before **11.59 pm on Thursday, the 2nd of January**.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the office cannot add meals for the new term on the parents' behalf. Therefore, please contact the office if you need any support accessing Parentpay.



## A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school office and ask to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or any of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell.

### The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

During the school holidays if you have a concern about a child, please contact BANES Social Work Services

You can raise your concerns in any of the following ways:

- Call our Children's Social Work Services on 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29 (weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm, except Fridays when we're closed from 4.30pm)
- Drop into the **Keynsham One Stop Shop** and ask for the duty children's social worker
- Discuss your concerns with someone who works

with children and families:

- Health visitor
- School nurse
- Social worker
- Teacher

#### • Out of office hours

- If you think a child is in immediate danger please BANES Emergency Duty Team on 01454 61 51 65

Tell us immediately about any of the following and open the relevant option for details on how to report your concern:

- A child is suffering significant harm
- You want to protect a child from abuse or serious neglect
- You feel the child requires urgent or short-term care (acute services)

Or you can contact the NSPCC

[NSPCC Contact Us](#)

## Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 2/3

Date	Event
20.12.24	Last day of term 2
06.01.25	**INSET DAY**- school closed
07.01.25	<i>Start of term 3</i>
08.01.25	Girls Football Match v Trinity Church School 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
09.01.25	Foxes The Egg Theatre Trip 2 pm - 4 pm
17.01.25	Eagles Lifeskills Trip
23.01.25	Netball Match v Peasedown St John Primary 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
04.02.25	Badgers parent workshop - 2 PM
06.02.25	Ducklings parent workshop - 9 AM
07.02.25	Foxes parent workshop - 9 AM
07.02.25	NSPCC Number Day
10.02.25	Internet Safety Week
11.02.25	Eagles parent workshop - 2 PM
12.02.25	Speak Out Competition
12.02.25	Rabbits parent workshop - 9 AM
13.02.25	Lions parent workshop - 9 AM
14.02.25	Last day of term 3

# STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS!

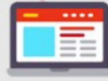
## IPADS



Be careful what you download  
Play games appropriate for your age  
Ask to set up agreed parental controls with you to help



## LAPTOPS



Make sure to take care with what information you share!  
Be careful about online games - are they appropriate?  
Make sure you know who you are talking with



## CONSOLES



Take close care who you play with online!  
Try to play games that are suitable for your age.  
Make sure to take it in turns playing games with others

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Use social media appropriate to your age  
Use a safe profile picture  
If you are pressured into sharing something you aren't comfortable with ask an adult

# EcoWud

You are Nature

# Holiday Adventure Club

## Greyfield Wood

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th Feb

10am - 3pm

5-11 year old's

Sibling discount available

Craft

Fire

Games

Fun

Friends

Nature Connection



# Christmas Holidays Inspired Camps

INSPIRED SCHOOLS

30th, 31st December  
& 2nd, 3rd January

- Northgate
- North Petherton
- Woolavington
- St Benedicts, Radstock
- Stoberry Park School, Wells
- St Johns, Wellington
- BASC, Burnham
- Castle Cary
- Wellesley Park

Multisports and Football camps available



**£20** Per day

**10%** Whole week discount

**15%** Sibling discount



Inspired Schools

01278 550945

hello@inspiredschools.co.uk

inspiredschools.co.uk/parents

<https://inspiredschools.schoolipal.co.uk/>



For paid places

Limited free places available for children on benefit related free school meals

**Happy Healthy Holidays FREE Places**

- Bookable on **18th November**
- Register for our community now

