

Newsletter – December 2019

The end of the term has arrived, and it has been such a great term to be at St. Mary's Primary. Thank you to everyone for their continued help and support this term. We always appreciate it and look forward to the coming term. An extra special thankyou to all of the teaching staff for their incredible commitment and hard work over the term.



There does however need to be a special mention for all of our classroom assistants, not just for what they do on a day-to-day basis, but also for what they do at this very hectic time of year. When things need doing, they seem to get done very quickly and this is testament to the team and the effort which can only be described as '*above and beyond*'. Thank you all!

Christmas Fair

What a superb Christmas Fair this year. It was so good to see so many people attend the event. A special thank you to Mrs. Rundle who managed to arrange an amazing raffle with some amazing prizes. Thank you too for selling so many tickets. The Fair and other events this Christmas have managed to raise over £1300 for the children at school and this money will be used to help fund developments at the school for the benefit of every child.



We appreciate all of your support with the raffle and the non-uniform days helped to generate so many additional prizes to make the fair a success.

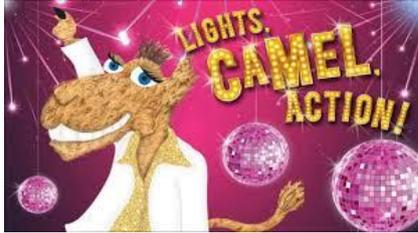
Reception Trip to the Zoo

This week the Reception children in Rosen Class went to Paignton Zoo to visit Santa. It was a lovely trip and the children had the opportunity to learn more about the animals and their habitats, as well as meeting Santa himself. The class adopted a giraffe on the visit and were given a certificate and a toy giraffe to have in school as a reminder of their trip. The class have also been identified at the zoo on the board listing everyone who has helped to support the giraffes.



Christmas Performance

There is not a lot that I can add to what has already been said about our Christmas show this year. I can claim absolutely no involvement in the show apart from helping to put the staging together and so it is a huge thank you to all of the staff and the volunteers for their incredible hard work. Also a huge 'well done' to the amazing children for their hard work in making the show the success that it was. We really do have a school full of STARS!



A massive thank you again to Mrs. Rundle and Mrs. Wall for organising all of the show tickets. It is a job that is very hard, especially when so many people want extra tickets. As you will appreciate, this is a massive job and we always want to make it as fair as possible for everyone.

Morning Drop Off

Can we please remind you that parents/carers shouldn't come into school with their children in the morning. This is one of the busiest times of the day and so we need to get children in and settled as quickly as possible.

If you need to pass on a message to the class teacher please inform the duty teacher or myself on the playground, or alternatively come to the school office. If you need to discuss something with the teacher, let the office know and then the teacher will make contact with you to arrange an appointment or to discuss things on the phone.

Thank you.

Crossing Patrol

I recently had a meeting with representatives from Devon County Council and Mrs. Hitchins from the Parish Council, about the possibility of having a crossing patrol in the village at the beginning and end of the school day.



Although the road through the village is a busy one, particularly during the rush hour periods, the opinion of DCC was that the village does already have good quality crossing facilities already with a well-marked and well-maintained zebra crossing. We looked at possible other sites for support with crossing the road including the crossing point by 'Ladybirds', but the proximity to the roundabout makes that a less than ideal option. The advice was that if you need to cross the road, the safest place is at the existing crossing and so we would encourage everyone to make the effort to use that crossing point and walk down Elliotts Hill.

Walking to school also helps to ease the issue of...

Parking

Please remember that the school car park is for staff parking only. The car park is not only used for staff parking, but we also have regular deliveries to the kitchen as well as bin collections. A congested car park can make these things difficult to manage.

At this time of year, we appreciate that many more people tend to drive to school rather than walk because of the weather. This does mean that we have so many more cars parking on the roads around the school.



Please make every effort to park in safe places that don't put any pedestrians at risk. With the volume of traffic on Steer Point Road especially, there is a risk that pedestrians crossing the road cannot find safe places to cross. Please also remind your children, especially those who have permission to walk home alone, that they shouldn't cross in between parked cars. The last thing we would want to see is an accident.



Sun Vouchers

Don't forget that we are currently collecting the Sun 'Books for Schools' vouchers. The scheme ends in mid-January and so we would appreciate it if you could keep collecting for us over the Christmas break.



Spring Term Clubs

The clubs that we will be offering in January will be coming out at the start of the next term. We will be using ParentPay to make the bookings again.

This system for booking will be for all of the clubs that are run by the teaching staff.

There is one change to club bookings.

The after school sports clubs organised by our PE providers, ('Achieve4All'), will now become paid clubs.

Achieve4All started working with us in September after our previous providers decided they were unable to support the school due to their own logistical issues.

Achieve4All have been a great addition to the PE provision in school and we feel that the quality, consistency and range of sporting opportunities has increased during the term. Children and staff have all commented to me about the improvements this term.



These clubs will become paid clubs to help ensure that different children get the opportunities to sign up to the different clubs that are on offer. The previous provider ran only football clubs which wasn't always attractive to all of the children and so we have worked with Achieve4All to develop a greater variety which will change over the year. The aim is to encourage more children to become actively involved in after school sport and we hope that many of you will want to book these places.

Bookings will be made directly with Achieve4All through their website.

<https://achieve4all.co.uk/>

If you would like to book a place on one of these clubs for the coming term, please visit their website and make the booking directly with them. **This facility is open from now.** Use the 'Book a Club' drop down menu to secure a place. These clubs will begin in the first week back. Each club costs £19.50 for the half term and will be managed by Achieve4All.

We are offering 3 after school sports clubs with Achiev4All.

Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm	Football Club. This is for anyone in KS1 and KS2
Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm	KS2 Basketball Club
Friday 3.15-4.15pm	Y1, Y2 & Y3 Multi Skills Sports Club

Y6 Hoodies

The Y6 have traditionally been given their leavers Hoodies after they have finished their SAT's in May.....which is also the hottest time of the year and the time when a Hoodie seems like the last thing someone would want to wear! And so, we have taken



the decision across the federation to issue the Hoodies earlier in the year when they might actually provide more benefit to the children. Look out for the new Hoodies in January.

Grandparents afternoon

It was lovely to see the school so full of grandparents last week to help with the Christmas festivities. Thank you for everyone’s time to make the afternoon a special one again

Thank you too to the band who came along to support and entertain everyone at school as well as the wider community. A great chance to have a sing-a-long!

Foodbank

Our Reverse Advent Calendar has been a resounding success. Thank you for your very generous donations over the past few weeks.



The idea was simple. For each day in December, spare a thought for someone less fortunate and help put a thankful smile on their faces by providing vital food provisions for this Christmas time.

We have had so many donations. The corridor through school has been heaving with tins and packets throughout December and I can only say a HUGE thank you. Not only does this help a good cause, but it has also made a lot of children feel really positive about making a small difference. A vital life lesson as I am sure you will agree.

Rights Respecting



We are a ‘Rights Respecting School’ and we will continue to work with all children at St. Mary’s to develop a greater understanding of their rights and the rights of all children around the world.

Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Dates

January 2020	
Monday 6 th Jan	Start of term
Wb 6.1.20	‘Achieve4All’ clubs begin. BOOK ONLINE https://achieve4all.co.uk/

On behalf of everyone at St. Mary’s, can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

See you in 2020!

Adrian Clements
Head of School