

Newsletter – November 2019

We are edging closer to the Christmas festivities at what is always a very exciting time to be in school. As you can imagine there is a lot going on in school at the moment and I am really looking forward to my first St. Mary's Christmas.

But what else is going on? What other news do we have?

Attendance

We monitor attendance very closely in school and as well as supporting people where attendance is lower than expected, we like to celebrate attendance. So here are the current attendance rates for each class across the school.

Year Group	% Attendance Rate
R	98.6%
1	97.6%
2	98.6%
3	98.4%
4	96.0%
5	97.1%
6	96.2%

Thank you for informing us when your child has been absent from school.

Children In Need

Children in Need was another very successful fund raiser. We managed to collect £262.88 which is a great effort. Thank you to everyone for their donations.



Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is getting closer. It will take place on Friday 6th December from 3.15-5.15pm. Please come along and support our event which will hopefully raise lots of money for the school.



Thank you for all of the donations towards the Fair. We now have an extensive range of raffle prizes so please support the raffle by selling some tickets. If you need more, please contact Mrs. Rundle in the school office.

Odd Sock Day

Another good day in school where we celebrated everyone's right to be an individual. 'Odd Sock Day' ties in well with the work we are doing in school as part 'Rights Respecting' as well as anti-bullying awareness. Thank you to everyone who put on their odd socks!



We have also now received our Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award.

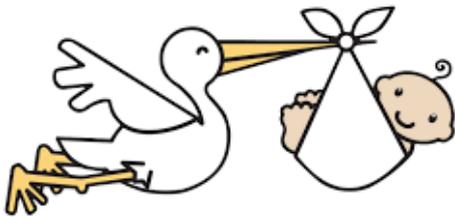
Buckfast Abbey

Well done to the Y6 children who joined the other Y6 children from the USF at Buckfast Abbey this week for an Advent activity day. The whole day began in the Abbey itself with a good sing-a-long and then it was off to do different Christmas crafts.

Well done children.

You represented St. Mary's brilliantly!

Staffing News



As you will already be aware, Mrs. Kay is getting closer to her maternity leave. It's all very exciting! She will be officially leaving early in January, but we have employed a new teacher to cover Potter Class in her absence. Miss Kelly will begin the new term in Potter Class and she will be the first point of contact from the beginning of term. Mrs. Kay will still be in school helping with the smooth transition.

Miss Kelly is not new to school. Some of you will have met her last year when she worked in school as a student teacher alongside Mrs. Kay.

We are all looking forward to welcoming her back into school and I know that the children will enjoy seeing her again.

Uniform

I am attaching the uniform policy to this newsletter as a reminder. Please take time to look through it and check your child's uniform. In particular, can you please check that your child has the correct PE kit and can we ask you to make sure that when you are buying new sweatshirts or cardigans that they are the ones with the school logo on.



As always, please help us to help your child by ensuring everything is named. It does save a lot of time for everyone!

Can we also ask that PE kits are brought into school at the start of every week so that children have it ready for their PE lessons.

Class Assemblies

We have now had all four class assemblies and I have been very impressed with the children for their contributions. These assemblies have been great for sharing the learning that they have been doing in class as well as being another way of helping them to develop their self confidence and performing skills.

Royal British Legion

Well done to everyone for the support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year. As a school we managed to collect £233.88.



Grandparents Afternoon

On Friday 13th December we will hold our Grandparents afternoon. Children may invite a grandparent to come into school to take part in some Christmas activities from 1.00pm-2.00pm. At 2.00pm we will also be holding a dementia friendly 'sing-a-long' and any grandparents that have joined us for the afternoon, may stay and join the singing too.

Christmas Dinner Day – Wed 18th December



To help make our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Party day look even more Christmassy, children may wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper for the day if they would like to.

Message from the office

ParentPay deadlines – when we have trips and events, we sometimes include a deadline date for numbers or payments. Can we please ask you to make sure that you try to keep track of these deadline dates to help us with efficient organisation. Sometimes trips are dependent on numbers who have replied by the final date.

Thank you.

Dates

Monday 2 nd Dec	Start of the 'Reverse Advent Calendar'
Friday 6 th Dec	Mufti Day – cake contributions please Christmas Fair 3.15-5.15pm
Tuesday 10 th Dec	Christmas Performance (afternoon)
Wednesday 11 th Dec	Christmas Performance (evening)
Friday 13 th Dec	Grandparents afternoon
Wednesday 18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner and parties
Thursday 19 th Dec	Christmas Carol Service
Friday 20 th Dec	Last day of term
Christmas Holiday	
Monday 6 th Jan 2020	First day of term

Best Wishes,

Adrian Clements

Head of School