

December 2023



St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'



Upcoming Events

Friday 15th December – last day of term.

Tuesday 2nd January – first day of Spring Term 2024



Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 29 - Every child has the right to an education which develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full.



As we approach the end of this term and also the end of 2023, I just wanted to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. It's been a very busy first term and the children have all done really well in everything we have

done this term. A special well done to all of our new starters too. They have all settled in really well this term, supported by all of the other children in school, and that has been really lovely to see.

Keep in Touch

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Christmas Performance



What an amazing performance of 'Bethlehem The Musical', by all of the children.

The children have clearly loved the show and have worked hard to learn lines and songs, and the staff have worked amazingly hard in putting it all together. It's really amazing how this whole thing comes together so quickly.

A huge thank you to you for all of your support whether this has been with providing costumes or helping to learn lines for the play. We hope that you have enjoyed seeing the show as much as we have performing it for you.

Reverse Advent Calendar

A huge thank you to everyone for your contributions to our Reverse Advent Calendar this year. We have collected a lot of food which we will deliver to a local food bank.

The final day for contributions is Friday 15th December.



Application for Primary School Places:



A reminder - Primary School Applications

Applications for primary school places are open, for admission into Primary School in September 2024 and you can apply online at

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline.

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. Applications must be in by 15th January 2024 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice.

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) and Numbots

In this run up to Christmas, we have been taking part in a competition with the other USF schools to really encourage and boost participation in TTRS and we have to say a huge well done to all of the children for being determined to remain at the top of the charts! It's quite close between the schools but we're definitely up there!



Friends Of Brixton School (FOBS)

After a term of really hard work and 100% (plus) effort from all of the new FOBS team, I wanted to say that on behalf of the whole school population, THANK YOU to everyone involved with FOBS for their effort and commitment to the school. The ideas and organization have been really good for the school this term and we look forward to things continuing throughout the year in support of every child. We also appreciate all of your support with events that have been organized and hope that you have enjoyed seeing this all happening throughout the term. The FOBS will always welcome additional support so why not think about getting involved.



Bag 2 School – A quick update. Thanks for all of the Bag 2 School contributions that you have made this term. With the recent collection, all of the bags have raised another **£185** which is amazing.

Mental Health

With the festive period fast approaching, this exciting but exhausting time can take its toll on our mental health. We encourage our children to know and practice the 10 a day tips for good physical and mental health and they are great for adults too! The 10 a day are:

1 Talk about your feelings	6 Ask for help
2 Take a break	7 Actively care for others
3 Keep yourself hydrated	8 Be proud of your very being
4 Keep active in mind and body	9 Do something you enjoy and are good at
5 Stay connected to those you care about	10 Eat well

To read more about looking after our mental health at Christmas, follow this link to The World Mental Health Foundation's ideas.

[www.https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/blogs/tips-looking-after-your-mental-health-christmas](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/blogs/tips-looking-after-your-mental-health-christmas)

British Sign Language – Christmas Challenge

Attached to this newsletter is something for you to do if you are looking for an idea to keep you entertained this Christmas. Why not take up the challenge of learning some British Sign Language Christmas signs.

How many can you learn? Can you see how these signs have been designed?

Good luck!

And finally ... THANKYOU

I just want to say a huge thank you to all of the St. Mary's staff. They all work incredibly hard for every child in school and for each other, and I couldn't do this job without their constant drive and support.



Thank you too for your continued support. We really do appreciate it.

Have a very Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!



Adrian Clements

Head of School