December 2025

St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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

Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 24 –

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy.

We're getting ever closer to the end of another calendar year in school and everyone at school would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. It's been a very good first term and the children have all done really well in everything that we have done together. Well done to them all!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 16th December – Grandparents afternoon and carol singing in the hall

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas dinner
(Christmas jumpers can be worn)

Friday 19th December – Church service at 11.00am
(Christmas jumpers can be worn)

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

www.facebook.com/brixtonstmarys

01752 880436

FOBS Christmas Fair

We would like to congratulate all of the FOBS team and other volunteers who gave up lots of the time and energy to put together an amazing Christmas Fair. The contribution from everyone was stunning to see and we were so happy to see so many people coming along to enjoy the fair.

A huge thank you to all of the children who were able to come along and join Mrs. Kay to sing some carols. An amazing job by everyone!

We'd also like to thank all of the local businesses who were able to join us at the fair or contribute prizes towards a very good raffle.

We hope you enjoyed the Fair as much as we did!

Christmas Performance – Lights Camel Action 2 (The Sequin)

What a GREAT show!

If you were able to come along to see the nativity show this year, we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you for all of the lovely comments.

Stunning dance routines, amazing acting, fantastic costumes and outstanding singing, all made the show a real classic, showing off what 'stars' all of the children are individually, but also what a constellation of stars they are when they get the chance to perform so well together.

I am always stunned at how well the children do with so little rehearsal time on the stage and so it is full credit to them and all of the staff for putting together another amazing production.

We couldn't do it without all of your support and so a huge thank you to all parents and carers for making the show a success.

Application for Primary School:

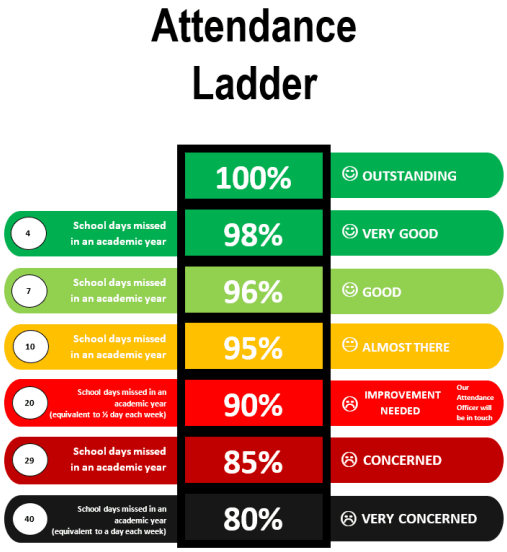
Applications for places opened on the 15th November, for admission into Primary School in September 2026 and you can apply online at

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

You can apply for a place if your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022. Applications must be in by 15th January 2026 or they will be considered as late and you may not get a place for your child in a school of your choice.

Please make sure you apply for 3 schools of your choice. If you only apply for one school and do not get a place, your child will be placed in a school where there is a space, which may not be a school you would choose.

School Attendance – A Reminder



Every School Day Counts!

In order for our pupils to achieve their very best it is of paramount importance that their attendance is good. Every lesson really does count for your child and catching up on lost time from school can be really difficult.

Often, the reason that children are absent from school is due to illness and it is important that you contact the school on every day of your child's absence due to ill health. Please contact the school office and leave a message before 8.30am so that our registers can be updated. We understand that sometimes absence cannot be avoided.

Punctuality – It is SO important that the children arrive to school on time, ready and willing to learn. The gates open at 8.45am. Any child who arrives after the gates are locked at 9.00am needs to be signed in at the main school reception. Being late for school reduces learning time and can impact on your child being able to settle calmly into the school day. Children can be upset at entering a busy classroom after everyone else and missing the initial morning instructions means that they are having to play 'catch-up' for the rest of the morning. If your child is 5 minutes late every day, they will miss approximately 3 days of learning in a year. 15 minutes late every day, equates to approximately 2 weeks of missed learning each year.

We appreciate your help and support with all issues around good school attendance.

Parking

Can I please remind you about safe parking outside the school. Whilst I appreciate that during the colder months more people drive to school, can I remind you that there should be no parking on the markings or the double yellow lines along Steer Point Road. With more cars parking incorrectly, there is an increased risk to pedestrians, especially those needing to cross the road. None of us would want to see an accident.

At busy times, can we also ask that you park safely to ensure that traffic can pass by and also to allow people living close to school to be able to get in and out of their own property.

Thank you

Mental Health Corner

The festive period is approaching and can bring a swirl of big feelings for children such as excitement, worry, frustration, joy, and everything in between.

With so much happening, it's completely normal for children to become overwhelmed or show their emotions more intensely.

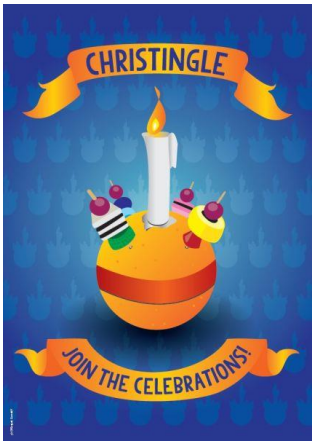
One of the best ways we can support our children is by helping them name what they're feeling: "It looks like you're really excited," or "I can see that was disappointing."

When children feel understood, their emotions often settle more quickly. Building in moments of calm, like a cosy story, quiet craft time, or some fresh air can also help them reset. Most importantly, gentle reassurance and steady connection remind children that all feelings are welcome, and that they don't have to manage them alone.

You can watch a short video on helping children to manage big feelings through co-regulation here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqfZIA_Sko4

Christingle Service at Yealmpton Church - SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER



You may have seen the recent message on ParentPay from the Rev Andy Atkins about a change of date for the local Christingle service. I'm sure my now 18 year old daughter won't mind me saying that one of the best photos I have of her was taken at our local Christingle service when she was about 3 years old. I can't decide whether her gaze at the Christingle in her hand was to do with the candle or the sweets on the sticks which she was trying not to eat until the right time.

A Christingle service is a magical event and so if you were planning to attend, please take note of the new date. If you didn't know about it but would like to attend, please put the following date into your diary.

The Christingle will take place at Yealmpton, St Bart's and to allow as many people as possible to come along, they have moved the date of the Christingle to SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER at 4:00 pm.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our Reverse Advent Calendar has been running since the start of December and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been able to send in contributions this year. We have collected a lot of food which we will deliver to the food bank based at St. Mary's Church so that we can support people who live locally.

You still have time to contribute if you can. Every little helps!

Dates for the Diary…

As more dates are confirmed we will let you know.

Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Dinner Day *Christmas jumpers may be worn instead of school jumpers if your child would like to.*
Friday 19th December	Christmas Service in the church at 11.00am *Christmas jumpers may be worn instead of school jumpers if your child would like to.* END OF TERM
Sunday 21st December	Christingle Service at St. Bart's in Yealmpton
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of term

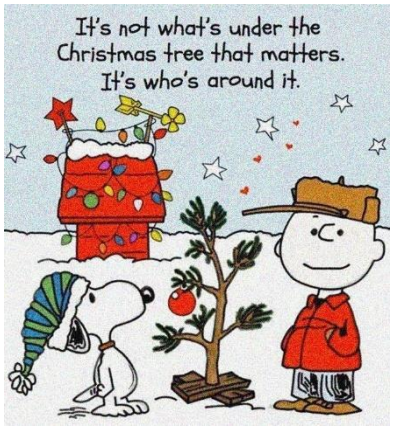
Don't forget that school term dates for the rest of this year and next year, can be found on the school website, especially if you are looking to book holidays and need to know when the school is closed.

And Finally…. Thank you

Thank you to everyone associated with St. Mary's CofE Primary School. We appreciate the support of all of our parents and carers, the local community, the FOBS, the other schools within the USF, and of course everyone linked to St. Mary's Church.

However, I would like to say a huge thankyou to the two groups that I spend most of my time with on a daily basis. Firstly, there is the staff. Every one of them puts in so much effort at school and the commitment doesn't go unnoticed. There is a real team effort here and that needs acknowledging as a real strength of the school. I hope all of them manage to take some time to relax and recharge of the Christmas break.

Then there are the children. Our children are amazing. We get told that by visitors and also by places that we visit. We see it day in, day out in school through their effort, their humour, their willingness to help and support each other and their keenness to learn and take part. Well done to all of them for keeping it together through the last couple of weeks in particular, as routines begin to get lost in the Christmas build-up.



Have an amazing Christmas.

We will look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026!

Kind regards

Adrian Clements

Head of School