



# ST MARY'S C. E. PRIMARY ACADEMY

*Dream, believe, achieve*

## Fortnightly Newsletter

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Collective Worship
- Kindness Week
- Birthday Celebrations
- Harvest Festival
- Christmas Performance
- Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- Parent Forum
- Children in Need
- Remembrance Service
- Parents Meetings
- Homework on the Google Classroom
- EYFS Information Evening
- New Intake
- PTFA
- Party Spiderman

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This term our collective worship is all about showing respect. We have talked about how we physically show respect to people such as looking at them when they are talking, not interrupting them, being polite and kind. As this week is Kindness week, we also talked about how we can show kindness to others. We looked at the story of Rama and Sita which showed how some people are kind and helpful and others are not.

### KINDNESS WEEK

We have been celebrating kindness this week. It's been fantastic to recognise and talk about the kindness people have shown this year, people in our community and people who are known nationwide. Early Years and Key Stage 1 shared the story of 'The Smartest Giant in Town' then made crowns for people who had been kind to them. Year 3 and 4 had a great discussion about different scenarios and whether kindness was shown. They then decorated the tree of kindness with kind behaviours. Year 5 and Year 6 wrote a note to someone in their class and offered a compliment and thanked them for the kindness they had shown.

Kindness is something that is free. Kindness can make a big difference to someone's day.

"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." Aesop

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

A parent had a lovely idea of celebrating children's birthdays in school. Instead of bringing in sweets for the class, buy a book for the class to keep and share with a reminder each time it is read of who bought it in for the class. Lots of children are vegetarians or have dietary requirements that means they can't eat the sweets and this would be a lovely alternative. Sweets will also still be welcomed for anyone who would like to do this.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our very first online Harvest Festival took place just before half term. Even though we didn't have our year 1 and 2 children, we celebrated with them once they were back in school. Jez joined us via google meet and was very impressed with how beautifully the children performed. This years theme was all about giving thanks. We hope you enjoyed watching the class performance on the google classrooms.

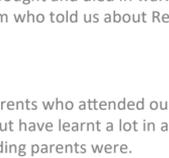
### CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

We are going to have a whole school Christmas service online in the same way as we did the Harvest Festival. If you have not already received it, a letter will be coming home to ask your permission for child (ren) to be on the video. As with Harvest, all children will be involved **but** only those with permission will be on screen and videoed for parents to view. Replying **no** to any of the permissions will mean we cannot video your child.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 11th December is Christmas jumper Day. Children are invited to wear a festive top (over their usual school uniform) for a donation to Save The Children.

This will also be our Christmas lunch day in school. The children can book their lunch via ParentPay. The menu is below.



### PARENT FORUM

Our next parent forum meeting will be held on Monday 30th November 2020 at 9.45am. This will be via google meet just like parents evening. All parents are welcome to come and talk about school issues and how we can make the school even better. The link for google classroom will be sent to parents who have expressed interest in being part of the parent forum. If you haven't yet registered your interest, please do so via the school office.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who came dressed in mufti or Pudsey clothing on Friday. We raised £ 232.62 for this worthy cause. The children learnt about where the money will go and who it will support.

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Remembrance day, we all stopped at 11 o'clock for our 2 minute silence to remember those who have fought and died in war. We were also lucky enough to have a live worship with Tom who told us about Remembrance day and the tradition of this day.

### PARENTS MEETINGS

Thank you to the 70% of parents who attended our online parents meeting. We had a few technical issues but have learnt a lot in a school and were so grateful to how patient and understanding parents were.

### HOMEWORK ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Each Friday the teachers post homework on Reading, Spelling and Maths on the google classroom. The children then have until the following Thursday to complete it and 'turn it in' online.

Whilst many of our children are accessing it, we still have some that aren't. If you are not able to access it online, please contact the school office who will ensure you are given a paper copy.

### EYFS INFORMATION EVENING

Each year we hold an information evening for parents in EYFS to inform them of how we teach English and Maths. Although we cannot invite you into school, we can still hold these meetings online.

There will be two sessions held to try and accommodate all the parents that would like to attend. These will be held on Wednesday 25th November at 4pm and again at 5pm via google meet. A letter will be coming out to you this week with all the information and a return slip for you to fill in. This slip will ask you which session you would like to attend and then a google invitation will be sent to you. If you are unable to attend, we can email the PowerPoint presentation to you.

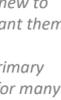
### NEW INTAKE

We now have a virtual video tour for any parents who are thinking of choosing St Mary's as their child's school place for September 2021. This is available on our website. [www.stmaryscebl.info](http://www.stmaryscebl.info)

If you know any one who is considering our school, please let them know. If they have any questions they would like to ask, please ask them to call into the school office.

### PTFA NEWS

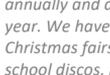
Please 'like', 'share' and keep an eye on our new Facebook page for how you can support the school - [Facebook Page](#)



Following on from the PTFA AGM, thank you for welcoming us as the new team for this year.

We've got lots of activities planned – and already the enthusiasm of the school community has been great to see! Thank you to everyone that logged in to the AGM and this week's meeting, it was wonderful to see so many!

### CHAIRPERSON



*Hi. My name is Jade. I have 2 children that attend St Mary's Primary school; Archie in year 4 and Dougie in year 2. Lois will be joining the school next September.*

*I am a stay at home mum. I previously volunteered in the school for 3 years, and I have been a member of the parent forum since it began. I have been on the PTFA for over 2 years now, I have helped to fundraise on many of the events over the last few years. At the last AGM I was elected to be chair of the PTFA.*

*I am looking forward to this year, to continue fundraising, and helping to support the school in any way we can. We welcome all new members, so please come along to our meetings.*

### VICE CHAIR



*My name is Kylie. I have 3 daughters, one in Year 3, one in Year 1, and one that will start St Mary's in 2022. I run a small home business making cake toppers and other paper crafts.*

*I am new to the PTFA and went to my first meeting last month! I am now the vice chair and look forward to welcoming other new members and creating a fun and efficient environment to raise much needed funds for our wonderful school!*

### TREASURER



*Hi. My name is Andrew, and this is my 6th (and final!) year as PTFA treasurer.*

*I have 2 children at St Mary's; Oliver in year 6 and Bethany in year 2.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working as part of the PTFA team, and I would like to encourage anyone who is interested to attend our Zoom meetings.*

### SECRETARY



*Hi, I am Katie and I have two children at St Mary's; Sebastian in year 2, and Esme in Early Years.*

*I joined the PTFA when Sebastian started school and have helped with events and fundraising. I am now the new secretary.*

*The PTFA is a great way to get involved and help fundraise for the school.*

### SHADOW TREASURER



*Hello, I'm Connor and I have been elected to shadow the treasurer this year. I am new to the PTFA and relatively new to the area. I have a nephew and niece at St Mary's and want them to have the best school life they possibly can.*

*Growing up with my mother being a deputy in a primary school, lead me to help out at her school and their PTA for many years.*

*I am looking forward to working with the PTFA and raising as much money as possible to aid the children of the school.*

We are sorry to see Caroline Bannard step down from Chair, but we are glad to have her continued support and expertise as a committee member, and she will be a hard act to follow! Thank you also to Emily Pearson and Rachel Wilson for their hard work, and their continued participation on the committee.

### MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE

*I wanted to write a personal thank you as I stand down as Chair of the PTFA and pass the baton with honour to Jade Nolan as new Chair and Kylie England as Vice Chair.*

*I have had an amazing 4 years as Vice Chair and then Chair. I want to offer special thanks to our hard working dedicated team and committee members. With wonderful parent (carer / wider family), teacher and friend support our family has grown from strength to strength achieving some wonderful outcomes for the school and the children. These have included the amazing playground markings, play equipment, a stage, a PA system, the whole school pantomime (annually) the creation of an outdoor reading / quiet area, books, Easter Eggs and Christmas gifts annually and a school memento and contributions to the year 6 leavers party each year. We have bought the local community together with the Circus, Summer and Christmas fairs. I wish to thank each and everyone one of you, through cakes sales, school discos, mufti days, chocolate bingo and our many other fund raisers as a collective we have been able to enhance the school experience for all of our children. Thank you and very best wishes, Caroline*

### NEXT MEETING

EGM - 7.30pm, January 20th 2021  
Zoom details to follow - ALL WELCOME

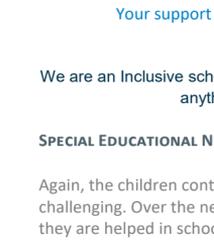
### WANT TO HELP

Join our Facebook group - Follow the link above

### RECENT EVENTS

**Costume sale** - raised £65 - thank you to Sainsbury's for donating the costumes.

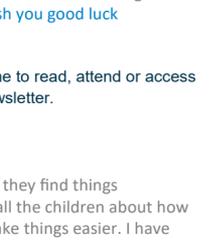
**Pumpkin Carving Competition** - raised £39.32 - thank you for the amazing effort and entries. Thank you to EStor for providing the very generous prizes! Following a teacher vote, the winners are:



KS1—Letty Dickerson



KS2—Oliver Stenson

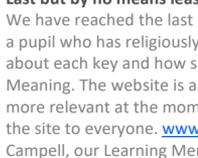


Adult—Amber Rawlins

Special mention to Mel Dickerson for the hard work and initiative for both of these fundraisers!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

We're excited to join [The Big PTA Raffle 2020](#).



This has been a really tough year for everyone, and this is an opportunity to have some fun and raise money for our school.

All funds raised will go towards the continued improvement of school outdoor play equipment and the new prayer garden,

For every ticket you will have 12 chances to win up to **£5,000!**

Just go to [www.bigptaraffle.co.uk](http://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk) Click on buy tickets, Search for either: St Mary's, Burton Latimer or NN15 5RL The school will then be visible with the PTFA logo

**Your support is greatly appreciated, and we wish you good luck**

**We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.**

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Again, the children continue to give their best even when they find things challenging. Over the next few weeks, I will be talking to all the children about how they are helped in school and what the teachers do to make things easier. I have also been working with support staff as they deliver interventions in small groups.

New Individual Support Plans have now been reviewed and the new plans will be sent out to you by the end of this month. We have decided to incorporate the One Page Profile into the new document. There will also be a parents/carers questionnaire sent out with the ISP about our support for pupils with Special Needs and I would be thrilled if you could all complete this for me. I will update you of the outcomes in the new year.

The video meetings for interventions for maths, reading and spelling have now been booked:

Spelling support – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 1.30pm

Reading support – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 1.30pm

Maths support – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 1.30pm

Further details of how to join these sessions will be sent nearer the time.

### Last but by no means least.....

We have reached the last of the **Keys to Happier Living**. I was so pleased to hear of a pupil who has religiously collected every key in the set. She was able to talk to me about each key and how she has been using these in her daily life. Our last key is Meaning. The website is always being updated with resources and ideas – it is even more relevant at the moment, as we adjust to a new 'normal'. I really recommend the site to everyone. [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org) Keep spreading happiness! Mrs Campell, our Learning Mentor, has the key fobs. Just remind your child to come and collect the last one in the set.



**Meaning**

**People who have meaning and purpose in their lives are happier, feel more in control and get more out of what they do.**

Connecting with a group and becoming involved with activities gives a sense of purpose and makes a difference to others as well.

**What gives you meaning in your life?**

**Meaning:**  
Be part of something bigger.  
Join in a community activity.

**Together, we can make a difference!**

Mel Barron  
Inclusion and Pastoral Leader

### PARTY SPIDERMAN

At school we are lucky to know some famous people and Spiderman is a close personal friend. Please see attached his leaflet with details of how you can meet him.