



## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

Please note that should you wish to receive this newsletter in a different format please ask at the school office.

**This term's Christian Value is Compassion:**

**'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'**

**Colossians 3.12**

### Term dates

**December 2023**

19th End of Term 2 at 2.30pm

**January 2024**

2<sup>nd</sup> Term 3 starts

### St Mary's Achievers

**Little Acorns:** Lennie, Anaya, Mya

**Little Oaks:** Seth, Dougie R, Eli

**Class 1:** Thea, Zara, Harley

**Class 2:** Jessica, Oaklee, Maddie

**Class 3:** David, Oliver P, Flynne

**Class 4:** Connor, Zachary, Maddison

**Class 5:** Erin, Rudy, Baylee

**Class 6:** Oscar, Leia, Jade, Konor

**Other Achievers:** Isabella, and the St Mary's netball team

### Staff Updates

We say a fond farewell to Miss Moody as she leaves us at the end of Term 2. She will be greatly missed but we wish her good luck in her new teaching post.

We welcome back Miss Golden in the New Year when she returns from her maternity leave.

### Forest school



Pupils throughout the school have been enjoying forest school lessons delivered by Wiltshire Outdoor Learning, making the most of our wonderful outside space. Outdoor learning promotes resilience, problem solving, practical skills, vocabulary, hands on learning, cognitive function and much more.



### DT & Cookery

In Class 5's recent cooking session in Design and Technology (DT), students delved into the world of culinary arts by preparing mouth-watering tacos. With a focus on hands-on learning, they honed their cooking skills and creativity as they assembled a variety of flavourful ingredients to craft delicious and personalised tacos. This engaging activity not only showcased their ability to follow recipes and work collaboratively but also allowed them to explore diverse flavours and cultural influences in the realm of culinary delights.



## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023



Year 2 have also been busy baking this term. Pupils made biscuits to help them learn the skills and vocabulary to before using these to write step by step instructions.



### Author Visit

St Mary's C of E Primary School and Nursery welcomed esteemed author Stewart Foster for an engaging and insightful visit on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Stewart, acclaimed for his heart warming and thought-provoking children's literature, engaged with the children, fostering a love for reading and storytelling.

During his visit, Stewart conducted interactive sessions with children from Key Stage two, imparting the magic of storytelling and sharing his experiences as a writer. His books, including "The Bubble Boy" and "All the Things That Could Go Wrong," have captivated young readers worldwide, touching on themes of resilience, friendship, and empathy.

Stewart Foster's visit aligns with St Mary's commitment to nurturing a vibrant reading culture and encouraging literacy among its students. His engaging presence promises an enriching experience for the school community.

In addition Stewart formally opened the new school library. Since the new library was finished a few weeks ago children have been able to enjoy new books with their friends during lunch times, spending time recommending books to each other and sharing their love of reading. Recently six pupils applied for the role and became the school's new librarians leading others in their reading quest. Parents and carers will be invited into school next term to read stories with their children in the new library.



## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

### Author Visit



### Christmas Dinner



Pupils and staff enjoyed a festive Christmas Dinner – the dinner hall was a sea of smiles, glitter and tinsel with Christmas jumpers and party hats made in class.





## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

### Nativity

Little Acorns shone like stars when they performed Christmas songs to their parents in their own Christmas performance. KS1 and EYFS put on a brilliant Nativity performance – well done to all of you, we are super proud.



### Christmas card Competition.

Several pupils from St Mary's entered the annual competition run by the Mayor of The West of England, Dan Norris.

The competition was open to students across the South West but a huge **well done** to Theo in Class 2 who was crowned the winner!

Dan Norris presented Theo with his prize after attending the Nativity performance. Theo's winning design will be featured on the Mayor's official Christmas card 2023 and sent to charities and organisations (and even Buckingham Palace).



### Christmas Fayre

What a successful event!

Thank you to every one for making this event happen – we couldn't have done it without you.

A big thank you to the PTA, helpers before and during the event, to Father Christmas for making time to visit, for your donations of prizes, pupils, staff and most of all to all of you for coming along and supporting St Mary's.

The PTA treasurer is still finalising the accounts but the total profits raised exceeds £1500!

We shall be sharing more information next term on the items being funded by the PTA this year.



## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023



Class 3 students learning new skills in their DT lessons whilst creating their Christmas craft to sell at the fayre.



### Online Safety

In line with our commitment to child safety, we would like to make you aware of a FREE online session available for everyone via Teams, hosted by Andri Nicolaou - an Avon and Somerset Police Child Exploitation Prevention Officer.

The focus of this event is Online Safety Grooming and Child Exploitation and will run on Monday 29th January 2024 at 7pm.

The session will cover:

- Social media and gaming
- Child Exploitation – how criminals use them to groom and exploit children and young people.
  - What we can do if we are worried and private setting.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device via Teams:

Meeting ID: 337 913 501 907

Passcode: 46F4YE

We strongly believe knowledge is power and by participating in this meeting, you contribute to the collective effort of creating a safer community for our children.

As a school we feel very strongly everyone should have access to this subject and encourage you all to take part. The benefits of a Teams meeting allow you to join from the comfort of your home however, if you are unable to access it at home or would prefer to attend a collective session in person, please inform the school office.

If there is enough demand, we will join the meeting at school and participate collectively in the school hall.



### Universal Infant Free School Meals



Is your child receiving Free School Meals because they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2?

If you are receiving any of the benefits listed below you can also register for a benefit related free school meal.

Please contact the team at: [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk)

Apply online at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Or call 01225 394317 (if you leave a message, we will return your call).



## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
  - Income Support
  - Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit **Run-on** which is **only paid for 4 weeks** after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
  - Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

### Ready to Read

As we head into the Christmas break, why not have a go at our Christmas Reading Bingo, copy attached at the end of this newsletter. There are lots of reading challenges for your child all the family (Mums, Dads, Grandparents, even Elves on the shelves).

There are some fantastic new books out there too if you are looking for a last-minute gift. Here are a few suggestions....



For inspiration when choosing a book visit the following link....

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/how-to-choose-books/>

## Keeeeeeeeeep Reading

### Are Your Details Up-to-date?

Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details or if you wish to amend your consents and permissions.

### And finally .....

The staff at St Mary's Primary School and Nursery would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!



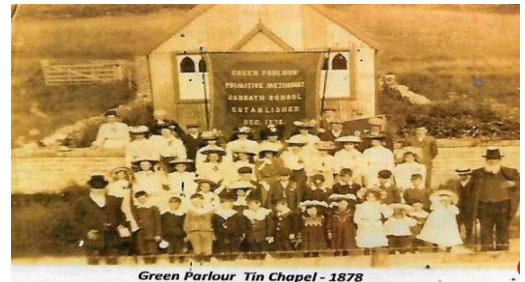
## Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

2023 has been a remarkable year filled with achievements, growth, and the collective efforts of our dedicated students, supportive parents, and exceptional staff. The hard work and commitment shown by our students and parents throughout the year enables a positive impact on our school community and boosts an enthusiasm for learning.

Take this opportunity to rest, recharge, and create lasting memories with family and friends



### *A moment in St Mary's History.....*



#### *Dec 1942:*

*School closed for Christmas, attendance for the last few weeks has been poor due to an outbreak of whooping cough.*

*Lord Hylton attended the quarterly meeting and read out a letter from the Somerset Education Authority authorising the appointment of an assistant, salary offered £25-£35.*

#### *Dec 1942:*

*During a blackout, one of the lights in the school came on due to a storm - the switch had been left in the 'on' position by mistake.*

*Mr Draper paid a short visit to the school to discuss the fixtures which would need to be made before the school could start serving dinners.*

#### *Dec 1951:*

*The school inspectors visited in connection to the problems of staffing, and the proposed use of the dining room as a classroom once again.*



Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

**Community Notices:**

*(We bring these to your attention, without necessarily recommending them)*

**Relate – the UK's most trusted provider of relationship support.**

We know that parenting can put a strain on adult relationships. We're here to help. Whether you're facing difficulties, looking to strengthen your relationship, or want help talking things through.

Whatever your circumstances, whatever your background, no matter how big or small the issues. Whether you're in a relationship, straight or gay, young or old.

Relate Avon offers face-to-face and online adult relationship counselling in Bath.

[www.relate-avon.org.uk](http://www.relate-avon.org.uk)  
[enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk)  
21 Milsom Street, Bath, tel 01225 465593




the national  
**sleep**  
helpline

**Does your child suffer with sleep issues?**

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?  
Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

**WE CAN HELP**

**03303 530 541**  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm  
Monday & Wednesday 9am - 11am





Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

# Christmas Reading Challenge

## 4 in a row

Read a Christmassy book with someone	Read a poem	Read a book that makes you laugh	Snuggle up and read in bed
Read next to your Christmas tree	Read your favourite book to someone	Draw or write your own Christmas story	Read the lyrics to your favourite Christmas song
Learn about something new in a non-fiction book	Read a non-fiction book	Read with a hot chocolate	Read a book about kindness
Read a book that has a snowman in it	Read a book about the meaning of Christmas	Read and make a recipe	Read whilst wearing your Christmas jumper

Can you complete 4 challenges in a row over the holidays? Why not try to finish them all?

@MisterBodd



Newsletter – Issue 4 – 19/12/2023

# Winter Reading Challenge

## 4 in a row

Read a Wintery book with someone	Read a Wintery poem	Read a book that makes you laugh	Snuggle up and read in bed
Read snuggled on the sofa	Read your favourite book to someone	Draw or write your own Winter story	Read and make a recipe
Learn about something new in a non-fiction book	Read a non-fiction book	Read with a hot chocolate	Read a book about animals
Read a book that has a snowman in it	Read a non-fiction book about seasons	Read a book about kindness	Read whilst wearing your Christmas jumper

Can you complete 4 challenges in a row over the holidays? Why not try to finish them all?

@MisterBodd