



St Mary's News

Love learning. Love each other.

Another busy term and what a finale we have had with our Nativities. At this busy time of year, our pupils from Nursery through to Year 6 remind us of the true meaning of Christmas and why the season of advent is so important.



Our value for this half term has been peace. We have reflected and prayed for those who live in war torn countries and for the children who do not have easy access to education. On International Human Rights Day (December 10th), we considered the rights that we have each and every day without a thought and how this compares to the lives of other children around the globe.

Keystage 2 had a fantastic opportunity to interview Dan Beeden from the British Antarctica Survey Team. We had an interesting Q&A session where we learnt about life in Antarctica, working out there, wildlife and weather. Did you know that it is summertime in Antarctica at the moment and it is daylight 24 hours a day?



Our Health Ambassadors have been busy establishing clubs for children to participate in during playtimes and lunchtimes. They are promoting active playtimes which are good for our heart, body and mind. They are currently running a drama club and a very popular benchball club. Playleaders are training with Mr Juliff and will be leading a variety of games and challenges for the different year groups.



Uniform supplier update—We have received some samples from various new suppliers and will be liaising with them in the New Year. Please continue to order any uniform from School Trends until further notice.

Breakfast Club update— Due to sickness absences and the general business of this term, we have been unable to complete our visits to other providers. This will be undertaken during the spring term. We will keep you posted.

School Council - Our school council have started to work with the Beelines project, as a part of the Walk / ride GM campaign. They will be looking at traffic and pollution levels around school and exploring ways in which we can improve travelling to and from school.



2020 has already so many exciting projects and activities planned . Another busy and exciting year ahead for everyone at St Mary's. Diary dates for the term ahead are at the end of this newsletter.

School closes for the Christmas break at 2.30pm on Thursday 19th December and reopens on Monday 6th January.

On behalf of myself, the staff and governors here at St Mary's, we wish you a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

All blessings,

Sarah Jones



A Christmas message from Rev. Adele

I really love Christmas. I love everything about it; not just Christmas day itself but the whole build up to Christmas as well.

And I especially love the build up to Christmas which we all share here at St Mary's school. The nativities, where each and every one of our children is given the opportunity to play a part; our school choir getting out and about and singing carols in our community; the Christmas parties; Christmas jumper day - all of it.

The reason I love Christmas here at St Mary's so much, is that, alongside the enjoyment and the excitement which I'm sure is found in every school at this time of year, there is something else here; something far deeper and more profound.

Here at St Mary's there is a tangible sense of God's presence amongst us. A presence which binds us together as a single community of school and church, a presence which binds us together as one St Mary's family.

And it's a family that is at the heart of the Christmas story. An ordinary family, just like yours and mine. An ordinary family whose lives were changed by the birth of a baby. A baby named Jesus who changed not only the lives of Mary and Joseph but who changed all of our lives by showing us that we are all part of one family, each one of us loved, valued and accepted for who we are. A baby named Jesus through whom God invites us to enter into a relationship with Him. A relationship in which we are offered His unconditional love and the knowledge and security of belonging to His family for ever.

So I thank God that we are all part of this St Mary's family, all part of God's family and I wish you a very Holy and Happy Christmas.

God bless
Adele Xx



Nursery

Nursery have had lots of fun this half term learning about different animals and their habitats. We all helped to create a jungle display for the corridor, whilst learning lots of new techniques in art. We enjoyed the story *Dear Zoo* and used lots of describing words to talk about the different animals. We discussed if we would like them as a pet or not (lots of children liked the cheeky monkey). We made our own stickmen from the sticks we had collected and used them in our small world play. And finally, after practising for quite a few weeks, the nursery children performed their Nativity. I'm sure you will agree, they were all fantastic. We are so proud of how well they all did, remembering their lines and all the actions to the songs. Well done everyone! Mrs Reger, Miss Clyne and Mrs Lowe.



Reception

Reception class have had a fun and festive half term. They have used skills in Literacy which involved story writing, writing letters, lists, labels, captions and simple sentences. Posada has been on a journey within our school and was warmly welcomed by our children. Well done to the children for their Nativity performance; it wasn't easy with all the bugs and germs that were flying around but they were all superstars. The children have enjoyed creating party crowns with jewels and sparkles and following instructions to create a crafty Christmas card. Well done Reception, you are our shining stars.

Mrs Rathor and Miss Day



Year 1

We have been having a lovely time learning about the changes in the seasons, and the different weather here in the UK. The children have worked really hard to learn their lines for the Nativity, and of course dancing and singing to the songs. In our Maths, we have been learning to add and subtract using lots of different equipment. In Science, we even made magic snow. It has been a busy half term. Well done, Year 1. Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Rowland and Miss Kendrick.



Year 2

This half term year 2 have worked very hard in all subjects. We have continued our work on the seaside and the children have enjoyed learning about our significant person from history; Grace Darling. They have also enjoyed our focus text in English, 'The Storm Whale'. The children wrote some super non-chronological reports about blue whales and really impressed us with their technical vocabulary and knowledge. Year 2 loved making their lighthouses during our open afternoon and it was lovely that so many adults could join us to help. The children also made us all very proud during the KS1 nativity in which they shone! Well done Year 2, you are amazing. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Sharples.



Year 3

Year 3 have really enjoyed our Stone Age to Iron Age focus this half term. The children have produced some impressive newspaper reports about the discovery of Stone Age remains. They have also written some very persuasive adverts, in an attempt to convince others that the bow and arrow was an effective tool during the Stone Age. The children have worked hard to re-create some beautiful Stone Age cave paintings, tools and jewellery.

We wish all of the pupils and their families an enjoyable and restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing the children back in January, refreshed and ready to enjoy more of their learning in Y3!

Warmest Christmas wishes from, Mrs. Casey, Miss Norton and Mrs. Wright



Year 4

Year 4 have been gripped by with the twists and turns of our class novel - 'The Ice Palace' this half term. They have produced some lovely atmospheric writing in a cold, icy setting, as well as creating great mini dramas based on the text. In Geography they have been learning all about the water cycle and it has linked really well with their work on states of matter in Science. The children especially enjoyed our investigations involving fizzy drinks (to prove whether or not gas has a weight), and melting chocolate (to discover which is the best temperature to melt chocolate quickly without spoiling it).

Year 4 have also loved the visit from the Dogs Trust and our workshop called 'Follow the star', all about Advent with Bishop Mark.

Another great half term year 4, well done.

Mrs Hazelwood, Mrs Watson and Miss Moran, would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2020!



Year 5

The children in Year 5 have had an exceptionally busy half term. In addition to their fabulous learning studying Kensuke's Kingdom, they have undertaken some extra responsibilities in the last few weeks. They were magnificent when it came to organising themselves for the fundraising activities on Children in Need day, suggesting some very creative ideas for stalls and games. The children had a wonderful time and managed to raise a great amount for this very worthwhile cause. Of course, none of it would have been possible without the help of all of you at home, so once again, thank you. They have also behaved as true St Mary's ambassadors on our trips outside of school both to the Apple Store and to watch Prestwich Arts College's performance of Bugsy. They truly all are a credit to you as parents / carers and to the school. Their excellence is often commented on by other adults.

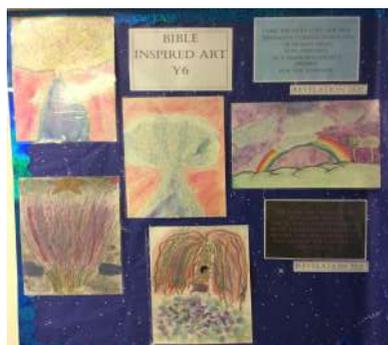
The children showed a similar amount of commitment and gusto when it has come to rehearsing for their role in the Christmas nativity. I have been extremely impressed with how clearly they speak out and sing in church — a daunting task for anyone! I'm sure it will be a fantastic occasion and hope to see many of you joining us in church. Mr Percival and Mrs. Coxon



Year 6

Year 6 have been working extremely hard this term and have been thinking in particular about the way in which life changed throughout the 20th Century in Britain. To do this we have read short stories set in 1930s Lancashire and learnt about changes to technology, holidays, football and television through the century. A highlight for the class was learning about the changing role of teenagers in the 1960s, that culminated with a 60s dance off. Alongside this we have been learning about classification of animals and the work of Carl Linnaeus. We have thought about endangered animals and in DT, have been making working models of orang-utans, sea turtles and dolphins using cam mechanisms. Our RE focus has been how Christians prepare for Christmas during the season of Advent and what they believe about the second coming of Jesus; this led us to create some beautiful art work based our reading of the final chapters of the Book of Revelation.

Mrs Cook



E-safety

Some simple rules to share with your children to help them stay safe on line.

- Make sure your child knows not to share personal information like their phone number or email address online.
- Only talk to real life friends or family if they are on sites with a social media element.
- Use privacy settings wherever they exist to keep their information private.
- Be a good friend and don't say nasty things even if its just a joke.
- Use secure and legal sites to download music and games.
- Check attachments and pop ups for viruses before they click or download anything.
- Use public friendly wifi when they're out and about to filter inappropriate content.

Collective Worship

Our worship this term initially focussed on King David and we reflected on the lessons that we can learn from his story. To commence Advent the Ethos Group led a very thoughtful and informative worship on the meaning of the Advent candles for EYFS and KS1. Finally to start our Advent observance across the whole school, Rev. Adele and Rev. Carole performed a school blessing in all areas of our school building.



Sport

This Autumn term has seen some more sporting success at St Mary's with a small team of Year 6 cross country runners braving the wind, rain and mud to compete against over 20 other schools in unsavoury conditions. The 2.2km was successfully completed by all runners, with special congratulations going to Niamh Cope who came 4th in her race!

The netball team have once again emerged victorious after a fiercely fought final in the PWJSSA Girl's indoor netball tournament where they beat Heaton Park 2-1. Congratulations to all our athletes, we definitely have some sports stars of the future in the making.



Music

There has been lots of fantastic singing throughout school this half term, with all our various nativity productions. The choir have also been busy carol singing in Tesco's and a very wet and windy Bury market.



Important dates for your diary

Please note that some of these dates differ those sent out on the Year at a Glance, due to timetable changes.

19 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day School Closes at 2.30pm
2020	
06 Jan	School reopens to pupils
14 Jan	Kiddicook starts
15 Jan	KS1 & EYFS Parent Workshop – Maths 6.00pm
23 Jan	Year 6 SAT's preparation open afternoon – 2.30pm
30 Jan	Christingle service in Church - 2pm
31 Jan	Young Voices Concert
02 Feb	YR in church – 10.30am
05 Feb	Y2 SATs meeting for Parents / Carers – 5.45pm
05 Feb	KS2 Maths Workshop – 6.30pm
06 Feb	Yr 4 Class Assembly – 3pm
07 Feb	China parent meeting—2.30pm
10 Feb	Diversity Week
10 Feb	God and the Big Bang workshop—Y5 and 6
11 Feb	Internet Safety Day
12 Feb	Yr2 Class Assembly – 3pm
13 Feb	School Closes at 3.30pm for half term break
13 Feb	EYFS / KS1 Disco – 6 – 7pm (This event is not for Junior pupils. Please assist each other in providing childcare for Junior pupils during this time)
	KS2 Disco – 7 – 8pm (This event is not for Infant pupils. Please assist each other in providing childcare for infant pupils during this time)
24 Feb	School reopens to pupils
01 Mar	Yr 2 in church – 10.30am
02 Mar	Yr 4 visit to Bury link school
05 Mar	World Book Day
09 Mar	British Science Week
09 Mar	Y4 swimming begins
11 Mar	Parents' Evening 3.45 – 6.30pm
12 Mar	Parents' Evening 3.45 – 6.30pm
18 Mar	Yr R Open Afternoon – 2.30pm
20 Mar	World Poetry Day
25 Mar	Yr 3 Open Afternoon – 2.30pm
26 Mar	Yr 5 Class Assembly – 3pm
29 Mar	Yr 6 in church – 10.30am
31 Mar	Yr N Join your child in learning 9.15am or 2.15pm
01 Apr	Easter Service in church – 2pm
02 Apr	Y6 pupils visiting China
03 Apr	School Closes at 2.30pm

**Our Eucharist service is held every Thursday in school at 9.10am.
You are welcome to join us in worship.**