



St Mary's CE Primary School  
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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2024, WEEK 5

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

##### Interfaith Panel

On Monday last week we had our 3<sup>rd</sup> Interfaith Panel on the junior site; the theme was stories as we know all faiths have stories central to their beliefs. We were so fortunate to hear from representatives of the Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish faiths and from a Humanist. The children were interested to hear from all the speakers and the questions they posed afterwards showed how much they had listened and were curious to find out more. We thank Mrs Myers for organising the event once again and give special thanks to the speakers who shared their belief with us.

##### Carol singalong

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, many families joined us for the first ever Carol singalong; it was such a lovely event made extra special by choir performances and the added sparkle of the St Mary's Brass Band and accompanying Glockenspiels! The event raised a whopping **£1600**. Many thanks if you came along and contributed to that figure - it goes in to the St Mary's Fund.

##### Nativities

What joy the children have brought us this week with nativities on the infant and middle sites. There is nothing sweeter than hearing their retelling of the Christmas story, with voices ringing out carols. Thank you parents, for helping your child to learn their lines and for providing amazing costumes; if any little stars in Year 2 would like to donate their star costume to school after Christmas we will receive them with thanks.

##### Christmas Fair

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our Christmas Fair and I hope the weather was kind to us. Little parent elves have been working away for weeks preparing and my thanks go to them all. We are still in need of a Chair for FoSM; this is the first time in FoSM's history that we have been without one and I appeal to you all to help us recruit. FoSM is such an integral part of our school community and it needs a leader - please consider how you can help.

##### Weekly attendance: w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Well done to Year 1 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' for the highest attendance and also to Year 6 for the least lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	7	96.50%
Year 1	4	98.44%
Year 2	3	98.00%
Year 3	4	98.17%
Year 4	4	97.68%
Year 5	3	97.68%
Year 6	1	95.43%
Whole School		97.43%

## OTHER NEWS

### Action for all settings: Support for parents to access their child's UK eVisa

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas, a digital proof of immigration status.

Parents and guardians of children who are not British or Irish citizens, and whose children have either a biometric residence permit (BRP) card expiring on 31 December 2024, or a passport with an indefinite leave to remain ink stamp or vignette sticker, should take action to [access their eVisa now](#), and do so on behalf of their children too.

An eVisa cannot be lost or stolen and can be accessed online by visa holders at any time to prove their rights in the UK. It's free and their immigration status won't be affected.

You can find a range of shareable eVisa communications materials, including factsheets and social media content in the eVisa [partner pack](#).

### Weekly School Social Media Posts

#### Hampers of Cheer

A big thank you to all those children and parents who donated items towards our 'Hampers of Cheer' which we donated to Embracing Age this week. We managed to collect a grand total of TEN hampers which will help support the elderly who may be feeling lonely this Christmas:

<https://www.embracingage.org.uk/contact.html>



## FINALLY

### Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the wonderful wildlife surrounding me every day! Thank you, Lord, for all the joy you bring to my house. Please help homeless people to find the right path to good health. Please help people with serious illnesses so they can live a happy, peaceful life and they can spend more time with their relatives. Amen. Bella B 5K

### Reminders:

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

2:00pm and 6:30pm - Junior Carol Service (years 4 - 6 at St Mary's Church). ***Please note all junior site children are expected to attend both services.***

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Last day of Autumn Term  
Christmas Jumper Day  
(school closes one hour earlier)

Your sincerely

Handwritten signature of Angela Abrahams.

Angela Abrahams  
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