

Newsletter



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Families and Friends

It has been a very wet fortnight since I last wrote to you. As many of you know, I have been standing out in the rain every morning, waiting to welcome our children into school, so it was lovely to see this beautiful double rainbow last week. I am sure you will agree – it was stunning!



Anti-Bullying Week

Last week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week. School Council led the week, where the children took part in a range of activities. The week started off with the children wearing odd socks to school. On Tuesday, the children took part in a whole school assembly. Each child had a puzzle piece template and wrote or decorated it to show how they help prevent bullying at St Mary's. They also discussed what makes a perfect friend (e.g. a big pair of ears to show they're a good listener, a big heart to show they care, hands for kindness, a watch because they always have time for them). During the week, the children were 'Secret Angels', where each child was given another child's name in secret. They then had to do lots of kind acts for them throughout the week (they could also be kind to other people so it didn't look obvious) and then on Friday they were supposed to reveal who their secret angel was; however this wasn't so successful – for a good reason! As our children are usually kind to each other, it was difficult to single out any one person! I think you'll agree, a lovely 'failure' to celebrate. The week culminated in the children 'reaching out' to children in need, by coming to school wearing (clean) pyjamas, a onesie or spotty clothes and brought a donation for **Children in Need**. Thank you for your generosity, as we raised **£107.75**

Colder weather

As the weather is getting colder (and hopefully not wetter!), please remind your children to bring their coats, hats and gloves etc. into school – we are still having children coming to school without coats. This is especially key when there are so many coughs and colds around.

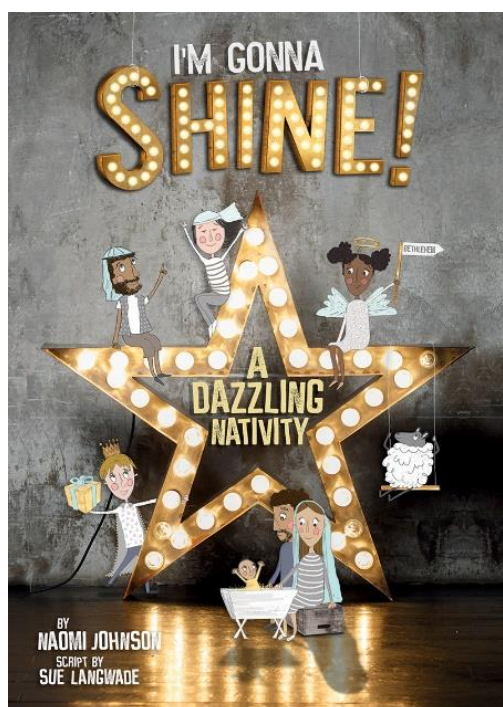


Celebration Assembly

Our last Celebration Assembly of the term will be on 25th November. Please arrive at 2:50pm and park on the playground, so we can start at 2:55pm. Thank you.



Celebration Assembly - 2:55pm	Class
Friday 25 th November	St Alban's



Nativity

We are pleased to announce that there will be two live performances to parents of "I'm Gonna Shine!" They will be performing at 2pm on **Wednesday 14th** and 6pm on **Thursday 15th December**. Please support the children with learning their lines. Thank you.



PE Kit

Please can I remind you again that on PE days, for health and safety, children should not be wearing any earrings. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure your child wears (surgical) tape over their earrings. Now would be a good time to introduce layers – joggers and shorts, depending on the weather. Can we also ask that children have a change of shoes for PE days as with the wet weather we've had lately, the field does get muddy!



Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

3:15 – 5:00pm - £7.50

3:15 – 6:00pm - £10.00

Please use School Money to book your child in for any sessions, but note that you can't book through School Money on the day. Please note that children being picked up after 5pm, will be charged until 6pm. Thank you.

Please remember that we have Breakfast Club which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.50 per session.

After school clubs

After School Clubs run from 3:15 until 4:15pm. **The last week for these clubs will be the week beginning 5th December.**

Day	Clubs
Monday	Lego – Mr Cato
Wednesday	Book Club - Miss Smith
Thursday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt Football KS2 – Mr Young

There will be no clubs on the last week.



Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

8th December is Christmas Jumper Day. It is an annual event which takes place to raise money for the charity Save the Children. The day encourages everyone to see the world as we hope our children do: a colourful place, full of magic and happiness. To join in with Christmas Jumper Day 2022, the children can simply wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their

normal school jumper. The recommended donation is £2. This year is even more special. The UK government has promised to give the same amount as you give. Every time you give £2 to Save the Children, they will also give £2. Our school Christmas lunch will be on the same day – the menu choices are available so please book by Monday 28th November.

Consultation

Dorset are running the annual consultation on the School Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025 with effect from **Monday 7th November 2022** to **Sunday 18th December 2022**.



Details of the consultation will be available to view at [2024 to 2025 school admission policies - Dorset Council](#)

Responses must be submitted either in writing to School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ or by email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by **Sunday 18th December 2022**.

Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on **Tuesday 28th February 2023**.

The key dates for the consultation are set out below:

Dorset LA consultation begins	7th November 2022
Dorset LA consultation ends	18th December 2022
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) determine 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements by:	28th February 2023
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) publish 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements by:	15th March 2023
Own Admission Authorities to send a copy of their 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements to Dorset Council by:	
Deadline for Objections to Office of the School's Adjudicator	15th May 2023

Can you help?

THE VALE PANTRY'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

We understand that we are all needing to look after our pennies... But if you could donate even just one item you will make a difference to families that need that bit of extra help this christmas....

We support over 250 families in our area every week....

- Chocolate Biscuit Treats
- Mince Pies
- Bottles of Fizzy Drinks
- Cheese Biscuits
- Tins of Fruit
- Crisps
- £5.00 voucher for a supermarket
- Yule Log
- Pickle/Beetroot/Cranberry Sauce.

35a Market Place
Sturminster Newton
DT10 1AR
Contact - 07939 224572
Email -
contactthevalepantry@gmail.com



Thank you

ROTARY CLUB OF GILLINGHAM (DORSET)

RIBI No 1030

Service above self



17th November 2022



On behalf of Gillingham Rotary Club, I write to thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were able to send off 305 shoeboxes, of which 6 came from your good selves.

Numbers were slightly down disappointingly, possibly due to situation with cost of living etc. but the quality of the contents of the boxes was noticeably improved. Please pass on our gratitude to your pupils.

The breakdown is as follows:

Boys	1-3	9	Girls	1-3	15
	4-7	58		4-7	77
	8-11	33		8-11	57
	12-15	23		12-15	33

This year the girls were most popular across all the age groups.

Our Rotary district which includes Hampshire, Dorset, South Wiltshire and the Channel Islands have sent off the shoeboxes which are now on the first leg of the journey to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and especially this year the Ukraine.

We are grateful for your continued support in bringing some Christmas joy to some of the world's disadvantaged children.

With thanks for your generosity.

Rm. Roland Martin (Shoebox Appeal Coordinator)

PTFA

We are now in full swing for Christmas with our festive events!



The wreath making workshops are fully booked and set to be a great festive start followed by our Christmas fair at the village hall. We are very excited as it's our first event in the local community so please come along, bring friends, family and support the school.

ST MARY'S PTFA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our prizes

- *2 X PHOTO SHOOT GIFT VOUCHERS WORTH OVER £200 FROM SEVEN SPRINGS STUDIO
- *FAMILY TICKET TO HAYNES MOTOR MUSEUM
- *FAMILY SWIM AT COOKS FARM
- *2 X HANDMADE WREATHS BY LAURA FROM GUGGLETON FARM ARTS, STALBRIDGE
- *VIRGINIA HAYWOOD HAMPER
- *FAMILY TICKET TO SEE NATIVITY THE MUSICAL (SHAFTESBURY ARTS CENTRE)
- *FAMILY TICKET TO FARMER PALMERS
- *£10 VOUCHER FOR BLOOM & WILD
- *GOODIES FROM ROBIN HILL STORES
- *COCONUT & COTTON £10 VOUCHER
- *GOODIES FROM BOTANICAL CANDLE CO LTD
- *SET OF 5 PERSONALISED BAUBLES FROM HAPPILY EVER CRAFTER
- *AGNES & VERA- HANDBAG
- *VOUCHER FOR 2 FROM THE FESTIVE MENU @ THE WHITE HORSE, HINTON ST MARY
- *AND LOTS MORE FROM OUR STALL HOLDERS!

TICKETS £1 EACH

DRAW AT 3:30PM ON THE 4TH DEC AT OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR (12-4PM) @ MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL


TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT ROBIN HILL STORES, AT SCHOOL, THE WHITE HORSE (HINTON ST MARY) OR PTFA MEMBERS. ALL OF THE ABOVE PRIZES HAVE BEEN KINDLY DONATED.

Raffle tickets are on sale again this afternoon and then again every day after school w/c 28th November. Tickets a £1 each and we have some amazing prizes to be won! These have all kindly been donated so thank you.

There is also the Christmas disco for the children ... reply slips need to be returned by 30th November please. If you are unable to print a form, there are some in the school foyer for you to use. Payment is on the night.

And lastly, we are very much looking forward to having AMA productions into school on 12th December with their production of

Dick Whittington as a Christmas treat for the children!



ST MARY'S PTFA

CHRISTMAS DISCO

6th
DECEMBER

6PM UNTIL 7:30PM IN THE SCHOOL
HALL.

£1 A TICKET INCLUDES DRINK & DISCO
GLITTER.

RECEPTION-Y6.
(PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN WELCOME
WITH ACCOMPANYING ADULT)



ST MARY'S PTFA PRESENT
OUR FIRST

CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

DEC 4 12-4pm

AT MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

15 STALLS OF LOCAL HANDMADE
GIFTS, CRAFTS, TOYS, TREATS &
HOME WARE.

-HOT & COLD REFRESHMENTS

-RAFFLE

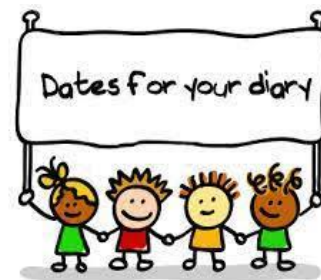
-ONSITE PARKING & TOILETS

-FREE ENTRY



Dates for your diary:

- **Thursday 1st December – Advent Day of Faith**
- **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Wreath Workshops**
- **Sunday 4th December - Christmas fair**
- **Tuesday 6th December - Disco**
- **Thursday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch**
- **Monday 12th December – Panto for children**
- **Wednesday 14th December – Nativity afternoon performance 2pm**
- **Thursday 15th December – Nativity evening performance 6pm**
- **Friday 16th December – last day of the Autumn term**
- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – children return to school**



Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts
Headteacher