

## Newsletter December 2023

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God made them to be, ready to go out into the world to love others.

This is rooted in Jesus' words: Love one another as Jesus loved us.  
(John 13 v 34-35)

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

We are fast approaching the end of term and the chatter about mischievous elves is lovely to hear - we already have a lot of excited children in school! We have lots of events and performances planned for these final few weeks of term and learning still continues. Please read below to see what learning has already been happening this half term and what is still to come. We look forward to seeing you at some of the events, as the whole community come together and prepare to celebrate this important Christian festival.



### CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:

#### Christmas Nativities Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The Christmas nativities are always a wonderful way to start Christmas and this year promises to be no exception. Reception will perform - A Happy-Clappy Nativity.

Year 1 and Year 2 will present Christmas with the Aliens - an unusual twist on the Nativity Story. Performances are:

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - School performance

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - Community performance - school choir to also sing

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec - Performance for parents 2pm

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - performance for parents 10am

#### ELFRIDGES - Mon 18<sup>th</sup> December



This is the first time our Parent Support Group have run this event. Gifts are on sale (Via Parentpay) for £3:00 each. Pupils can come and secretly choose a present for parents, grandparents or aunts and uncles. All presents will have been wrapped by our elves and will be kept safely until the end of the school day. What a lovely way for children to buy and give a gift to special members of their family. If you wish your child to take part please go onto parent pay and we will have a list of pupils on the Grand

  
**St Mary's Church of England Primary School**

*Address:* Rushcroft Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7PP

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*Website:* [www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk)

*HEADTEACHER:* Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH     *DEPUTY HEAD:* Mr S Day BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL  
Opening Day of Elfridges.

**Key stage 1 Christmas Party - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**Children should come dressed in their own clothes but suitable for the cold weather also.**

School will provide the food and drinks. Donations of £1:00 are kindly requested.

**Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch**

Please note this is a **Non - Uniform Day**.

This week the pupils have listened to a Worship, led by School Council about how this fun day really can help others. Please ask them about this.

Pupils to wear a Christmas Jumper or Red and Green and small donations are suggested to help the charity Save the Children.



**Save the Children**

**Key stage 2 Christmas Party - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Children should come dressed in their own clothes but suitable for the cold weather also.**

School will provide the food and drinks. Donations of £1:00 are kindly requested.

**The Carol Service - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

The Christmas Service will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 9:30am in St Mary's Church. All parents are welcome to join us for the church service which Year 5 will lead. The school band, woodwind groups and choir will also be performing and promises to be another lovely service where the whole school comes together to celebrate.

**Please note there will be no further Friday assembly on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.** Instead, in what is now a very long-standing tradition at St Mary's - pupils and staff will gather around the Christmas tree to sing carols at the end of the school day.

**Community Performance** - At this performance we invite the elderly who live in our parish and community to come and watch the choir sing and the pupils perform their Nativities. Refreshments are then provided - turkey sandwich, cake, tea and coffee. Our guests enjoy watching pupils perform and then the opportunity to chat to others. If you know of anyone who would be pleased to receive an invite to future community events please pass on their names and email or postal address to the school office and we would be pleased to welcome them to our next event.

### **NEW RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2024**

If you have a son or daughter who is looking for a Reception place in September 2024, then information about how to apply to schools is now available.

If you reside in Oldham please go to: [www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions)

If you reside in Rochdale please go to: [www.rochdale.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/admissions)

*Please note: If you are applying to voluntary aided schools (eg Church Schools) they may require you to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation, in addition to the application you make to the Local Authority. Supplementary forms are available from the relevant school.*

*Any parent wishing to apply for a Reception place at St. Mary's CE Primary School **MUST** complete a supplementary form (available from the school office).*

If you don't have access to the internet at home, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, but these are very easy to set up and staff will be happy to help.

### **Deadlines for making an application: Primary 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

#### **Sporting Achievements:**

Mrs Larder and Mr Day have led and supported our pupils with a large number of sporting events and competitions this term. So far ...

- Netball Champions in the Crompton House Tournament in October.
- Cross Country School Champions in the races at Crompton House in November.
- Tag Rugby Champions in the tournament at Crompton House in November.
- Football league is continuing-St Mary's are currently joint leaders with Thornham St James and there will be a play off in Spring to determine the winner of the league.



**Netball Winners**

**Cross Country Winners**

Congratulations to all who have represented St Mary's School so far!



Our Sports Ambassadors are also doing an excellent job at lunchtimes organising playground games for reception, year 1 and 2 children.

**Musical Performances**

Our school choir have already completed one stunning performance at The United Reform Church and are singing again on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Rotary Concert held in St James Church, Barry Street. The school woodwind group will also perform at this event and recently performed in school worship.



**LEARNING:**

Reception - what a lot of learning in their first term at St Mary's!



Sorting, matching, exploring and describing objects whilst learning about Autumn.



Finding out about the Hindu festival of light, pupils make their own diya lamps.



Our Reception pupils practice anticlockwise moves to help letter formation.

These children are very proud of their models of Big Ben, as they learn all about Guy Fawkes.





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## Year 1 - Being detectives!

Year 1 children have been working as detectives and collecting lots of clues and evidence to find out what our literacy texts are.

Have you guessed ....



.....

**Mrs Armitage On Wheels**



..... **The Grinch !**

**Year 2 -** Year 2 have had great fun taking part in a history workshop, exploring the lives and achievements of Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. They enjoyed becoming time travellers, journeying back to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century embarking on a voyage across the ocean and then to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, launching into Space onboard Apollo 11!



**Year 3-** Year Three enjoyed a fantastic Stone Age themed day which has helped consolidate their understanding of Hunter Gatherers. The day was filled with lots of exciting activities including: carving spear heads, trying a Hunter-Gatherer

recipe, making Stone Age jewellery and creating their very own cave art.



**Year 4 - What a debate !**

To support their literacy learning, year 4 enjoyed participating in a debate about the location of Shaw market. There were strong opinions on both sides but after a vote the local community decided the market should stay on the High Street.



**Year 5 - Ice Lollies in lessons !**

Year 5 have been learning about materials and their properties. In their 'hook' lesson children were each given an ice lolly and had to try and keep it frozen over the course of the afternoon. As you will remember, the first week of the term was particularly hot so this proved difficult however the children explored a number of creative ways in an attempt to keep it frozen such as immersing it into a bottle of cold water.



**Year 5 continued ....**

Following on from this the children have completed several activities including sorting materials based on their properties; planning and carrying out an investigation into the best material for blackout curtains; experimenting with a number of materials to see which ones are soluble and insoluble; experimenting with filtering, sieving and evaporating different materials; discussing reversible and irreversible changes; testing the electrical conductivity of different materials; and finding out about the work of a famous chemist..



**Year 6 - Screaming run**



Year 6 pupils took part in a 'screaming run' experiment to see just how far you can run in just one breath. All part of their 'What keeps you running' science topic on biology.

**ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:**

The next draw for the 150 club will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December when we have the bonus draw of £500. We will also draw the winners of the three Christmas Hampers.

The next Support Group meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7:00pm at the North Star.

**ATTENDANCE**

The class with the highest attendance since the start of school is Year 4 with a fantastic 97.9%. *Well done Year 4, keep up the great work!*



### SNOW POLICY:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the snow policy and arrangements for bad weather.

#### Snow Warnings: what school does

- \* The school's priority is our young people's safety
- \* All decisions are taken around this central concern.
- \* We monitor the weather forecast closely and take advice from many agencies.

During the winter, when bad weather can be expected, our first priority is to ensure that the school site is safe and the surrounding roads are passable.

The paths are cleared and gritted, and **for safety reasons we do not allow any form of snowballing.**

If conditions deteriorate during the school day, or bad weather is forecast when pupils would be going home, I may inform parents via the school website, twitter account or parentmail as noted below, that they can collect their child from school early. Extra-curricular activities may also be cancelled when the weather is poor.

The actual timing depends on weather reports. Exceptionally, I may have to decide in advance to close the school and will always try to use the best possible advice available.

Closing the school due to adverse weather is always a difficult decision to make and is only made in extreme circumstances based on the following:

- There are insufficient staff in school because of unexpected snow/weather conditions.
- The weather makes it too dangerous for staff and children to travel to school.
- The school grounds are too dangerous.
- The heating/hot water is not working.
- School dinners are not available due to any of the above reasons.

A decision to close the school is made as soon as I am in receipt of all necessary information which then allows/enables me to make an informed and considered decision.

#### Communication with parents

I am sure that you will appreciate that I cannot contact all parents individually.

Notices of early closure are posted immediately on the school website

([www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk)) and sent as a message on twitter. We also send a message out on Parentmail, although in high levels of demand this can often be slow. We also inform the Local Authority who update their website and we also inform local media including local radio stations <http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/SchoolClosures/Schools.aspx>)



***IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE PLEASE!***

*Please do not rely on waiting for a parentmail message as the only means of communication, please check all other sources including the school website. You can also check by telephoning school but this will only be available **AFTER 8am** when a member of staff is able to answer calls.*

**Please do not reply to any text message as this congests the school phone lines.**

*I hope we will have a pleasant, mild winter, but as always, we should be prepared and we are.*

***Extra-Curricular Activities:***

*Monday: Badminton - Coming soon!*

*Tuesday: Fitness Club OCLL coach Y5 and 6 - 3:30 - 4:30*

*Wednesday: Choir Y3 - Y6 - 3:30 - 4:30*

*Thursday: School Band - Y4 - Y6 by invite 8:30 - 9:00*

*Anna's Dance Y1- Y4 3:30 - 4:15*

*Friday: Gymnastics - 3:30 - 5:00*

***Netball and football will resume as the weather improves.***

***Dates for your Diary:***

*Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jan PSG meeting 7:00pm*

*w/c 5<sup>th</sup> Feb E Safety Week*

*w/c 5<sup>th</sup> Feb Children's Mental Health Week*

*Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Feb Parents Evening (details tbc)*

*Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb Parents Evening (details tbc)*

*Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb School Disco (details tbc)*

*Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Feb Non-Uniform day (details tbc)*

*School is closed from Mon 25<sup>th</sup> December until Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January inclusive and  
reopens on **TUESDAY 9th Jan 2024***

**Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter.  
On behalf of all the Staff, Pupils and Governors at St. Mary's CE Primary School,  
may I wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.**



Kind regards,

P.A Hartley  
*Headteacher*