

Newsletter December 2023



Dear Families

This is the last newsletter of the winter term and of the year 2023. I know times flies as we get older but it really does seem five minutes since last Christmas.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support at school; after what has been such a busy term we are blessed to have such a supportive community. Thank you for all the gifts and presents that are arriving daily for staff and for your kind words and Christmas cards so thoughtfully written.

And so, we begin to say goodbye to Mrs Jones. As she moves onto her new school, we are really happy to have had her at our school for the last two years – you have made a huge difference to our children (and the staff) and will be very missed. Come back and visit us anytime and, for those of you who have ever been in an assembly with Mrs Jones, it is time to give her back her own words – you believed in yourself and you did it! Well done 😊

Website

December's online safety newsletter is now on the website for you. <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Keeping+Safe+Online&pid=30> I hope you are finding this resource a great source of support at home. To offer further support we will be facilitating an online safety webinar for parents, this will be live streamed at 9:30am on Weds 31st January – more details to follow.

Parents evening

Thank you for the excellent turnout at parents' night; our children are so lucky to have such supportive families. Thank you also for the helpful feedback shared with us, 94% of our community strongly agree with the positive statements about their child's experience at school.

Christmas events



Wow, there has been such a plethora of Christmas events over the last couple of weeks.

We are absolutely indebted to the tireless work of the PTFA who operate around the clock shopping, wrapping, buying, sorting, banking, resourcing and so much more! Your generous donation of time and effort is so greatly appreciated – the children have excellent events to attend and the money you raise for

school is so needed! Thank you on behalf of the whole school community!

Thanks also go to the amazing Mrs Flynn and Mrs Boardman who single handedly served over 120 Christmas dinners at our Christmas lunch event – so impressive and so delicious too!

Life Education Team, Bright Young Leaders and NSPCC



Thank you for supporting these events; the teams came to school and helped the children understand about keeping healthy and safe in really fun, educational way. Our curriculum is so

significantly enriched by these visits – please do get in touch if you work for, or have an area of expertise, that would benefit our children.



Nativities

Congratulations to the superstar actors, narrators and singers of this year's Nativity – The Magical Christmas



Journey. It was so beautiful and I would like to reiterate my thanks to the entire infant staff for their hard work. I know, from so many people's feedback, the event was absolutely wonderful.





A bit of homework!

TTRS competition begins on 23rd December and finishes at 7pm on January 10th with awards being given in the first assembly back on Friday 12th January 2024!

This is in preparation for our TTRS NSPCC rocks day on Feb 2nd – more details about this special day to follow.

Activity Clubs in the New Year

Fizzy Tree, Team Theme and Jujitsu all begin the first week back, all other clubs begin week commencing 15th January.

Mondays – Science club for Y5 and Y6 available on Scopay.

Tuesdays – Jujitsu (mornings)

Tuesdays - netball until 4:15pm (earlier finish time please note) available on Scopay.

Wednesdays – Team Theme

Thursdays – Fizzy Tree

Thursdays – Chess club

Fridays – Football until 4:15pm (earlier finish time, please note)

Parking and road crossing

Please may I ask you to be really cautious on Station Lane. Traffic is very stressful for everyone the moment following the impact of recent flooding and temporary traffic lights, hopefully these difficulties will resolve soon. In the meantime, we ask that you park carefully

on the church, using the bays where possible and avoiding parking on the main road if you can.

In addition to this, please can I urge you to cross the road with Mr Kayes our lollipop man who is doing a great job keeping everyone safe morning and night. If children and families are crossing directly in front of the staff carpark opening, it is very difficult for oncoming cars to see you – the large hedge blocks the view of people crossing which is why we implore you and your children to cross the road where Mr Kayes can help to keep everyone safe.

Please note, there will be no road patrol on Thursday of this week; please cross your child over the road with extra care.

A good night's sleep.

With the very best will in the world, the routines we strive for during term time go right out of the window once Santa is on his way! Recently, we have had some parents chat to us about bedtime routines – what is most helpful and how much sleep does their child need. We hope that the information below can answer some of those tricky questions.

<https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-and-treatments/procedures-and-treatments/sleep-hygiene-children/>

Reading at home with your child.

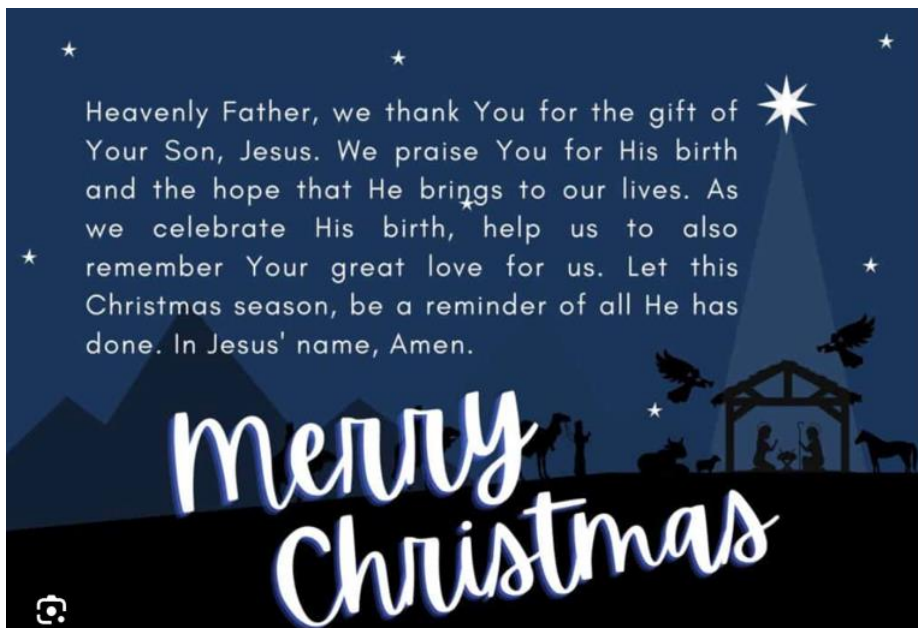
We love you to read with your child every day – no matter which year they are in, listening to your children read is so good for them. You can help them decode new words, develop fluency and accuracy and truly develop as life-long readers. Don't forget to sign their reading record when you have read together.

Reindeer Run

Mrs Noonan had us all running to the North Pole this week! Not only did we collective run over 6000km but we did it in glorious sunshine! Mrs Noonan, you have the magic touch.



Have a wonderful Christmas and
New Year



Here is the events calendar for you – lots coming up!

<https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1&pid=10&viewid=2>