



St. Mary's News

December 8th 2023



Important Dates



Wednesday 13th December 2023	Community Christmas 10.15am—11.15am See newsletter for further details
Thursday 14th December 2023	Christmas Sing-a-Long Final Choir session of the school year
Friday 15th December 2023	Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm Tickets limited to 4 per family
Friday 15th December 2023	KS2 Theatre Show A Christmas Carol (funded by school)
Monday 18th December 2023	Whole School Christmas Day of Fun Come to school dressed up Christmassy Take part in Christmas Crafts Feast upon our super Christmas Lunch or bring your own festive lunch box Enjoy our annual festive pantomime - Aladdin (parental contribution needed) Take part in Christmas Bingo
Friday 22nd December 2023	Christmas Service in Church 2.00pm School closes for Christmas No After School Club this evening
Monday 8th January 2024	School re-opens Breakfast and After School Club open as normal
Monday 8th - Friday 12th January 2024	Year 5 Bikeability Week Letters have already been sent home to parents. Children will be put into groups of 6, with each group having their own, full day of tuition.
Wednesday 10th January 2024	Key Stage 2 Dance Club begins—5 weeks (3.30-4.30pm) A different style of dance every week.
Friday 12th January 2024	Key Stage 2 Dodgeball Club begins - 5 weeks (8am-9am) Reception and KS1 Dance Club begins—5 weeks (3.30-4.30pm) A different style of dance every week

Key Stage 1 Nativity Plays

A big well done to our Y1 and Y2 children who put on two amazing performances of The Bossy King this week. The Y1 children sang their hearts out and were fabulous musicians and the Y2 children performed with such confidence, in their various roles, on stage. A big thank you to the staff who worked so hard to put the production together. It really is quite a challenge putting on a production with such young children, but all of the staff's and children's hard work was worth it, as the end result was fabulous.





A big WELL DONE to our Year 2 children who were amazing on stage on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Bossy King 1: William

The Bossy King 2: Henry

Angels: Ava, Marnie and Grace

Servants: Skylar, Bobby, Lexie and Isabella Rose



Chief Servant and Donkey:
Rose and Sofia

Mary and Joseph: Edith and Luke

Narrators: Arlo, Charlie R, Sebi
and Noah



Shepherds: Theo, Taylor,
Charlie H, Alfie and Jax
(who was poorly)

3 Kings: James, Tyler and
George





A BIG SHOUT OUT to our Year 1 children who were also brilliant on Tuesday and Wednesday.

They were a fantastic support to our Year 2 children. It will soon be their turn to take on the starring roles.



Don't forget to send in a named USB (memory pen) if you would like to have a copy of the production. All USBs should be sent in by Wednesday 13th December at the latest for the KS1 play in order to give staff time to transfer the production.



Well done to:

Reuben, Amelia, Isaac, Heidi, India, Carter, Henry W, Hettie, Lorcan, Freddie, Hunter, Isabella-Rose, Lola, Harley, Alannah, Henry S, Nancy, Sophia, Millie, Chloe, Jack, Arya and Ava and Ryder.

You were all superstars and we are really proud of you all.





Community Christmas - Wednesday 13th December

We would like to invite our more elderly parishioners and other pensioners from the local community to join us for carols and refreshments on Wednesday 13th December from 10.15am -11.15am in our Infant Hall. Our choir will perform carols and then spend time chatting with our visitors and serving refreshments.

We are really looking forward to the event and we hope that some of our local community can come along and spend time with our children. We think that it is really important that our community comes together, particularly at Christmas time, as it can be a lonely time for some and it will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to spend time talking to our more elderly residents.

Please do try to come along and please extend our invitation to those pensioners who may not be aware of our invitation. We are looking forward to meeting you all and can promise you a very warm St. Mary's welcome.



Choir Christmas Sing-a-Long Thursday 14th December

Our school choir are fabulous! It is lovely to see so many children showing such enthusiasm and passion for singing and performing and they are so keen to show off their skills and talents to their families. With this in mind, we have organised a Christmas Sing-a-Long for the choir and their families on Thursday 14th December from 3.45 - 4.45pm to showcase the children's hard work.



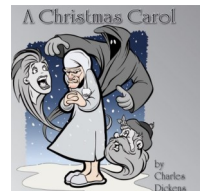
The event is free to attend— we simply ask for donations, on the day, to help with the costs of refreshments.

We hope to see you all there. Bring your voices along with you as there will be some opportunities for audience participation :)



A Christmas Carol - Theatre Production Friday 15th December

Our Y3 - Y6 children will have the opportunity to watch a theatre production of a Christmas Carol on Friday 15th December when a theatre company will visit our school. School has funded the cost of this production as we think it will be a great experience for our children and A Christmas Carol is such an iconic Christmas story. We hope that the children really enjoy the show.



Christmas Pantomime Aladdin - Monday 18th December

It is a St. Mary's tradition to hold a whole school panto during the festive season.

We choose to hold the panto in school in order to keep costs down, as coach transport and theatre ticket prices are so expensive.

School is aware of the financial challenges that many of our families are facing, at this time, and with this in mind, the PTFA have agreed to help fund the cost of the panto with school and with you—the families. This means that we are asking for a donation of £2.50 per child. Payment streams are set up on School Money and we ask that all contributions are paid by Wednesday 13th December. Thank you.

We hold the panto as part of our Christmas Day of Fun as it really makes it a day to remember for the children. As part of this day, the children are able to come to school dressed up in a Christmassy way - or they can even come dressed up as a character from our panto Aladdin. The day will also include Christmas Lunch and a selection of Christmas fun activities. We are certain that the children will have a fabulous day.





Reception Nativity Play

Our Reception children have been busy preparing for their Christmas Play - The Nativity - which they will perform for their families on Friday 15th December at 2.30pm.

As you can imagine, the children are very excited and are very busy learning their lines and rehearsing the songs. They are loving being on 'the big stage'.

Every child has been allocated 4 seats for the performance. No tickets are needed—simply sign in at the office. If you do not need the 4 allocated seats, can you please let school know ASAP so that we can allocate the spare seats out to those families who have asked for an extra seat, if possible.

We will open the doors at 2.20pm. Please don't arrive too early, as we need time to set up the hall after lunchtime and it can get chilly queueing up outside. There will be enough seats for everyone. We will record the show using an IPAD and are more than happy to copy it onto a memory stick for you (if you send a named one in) to share with any family members who are unable to attend. We look forward to seeing you all on the 15th.

Billinge Christmas Tree Festival

St Aidan's Church are holding a Christmas Tree Festival, once again this year. The festival begins this evening with a family movie night, and will run throughout the weekend. If you are attending the movie night, please arrive for 4.45pm so that you are able to settle down comfortably before the movies begin.

You are able to come dressed in your pyjamas and there will be drinks and a goody bag available.

Entry to the event is £3 per child and is payable on the door.

A big well done to our Y5/6 choir members who sang beautifully at the opening of the festival this morning and to Heidi (Y6) who read a short prayer. Thank you to Mrs Taylor for working so hard to prepare the children and to all of our parents/families who went along to support the children.

School has agreed to sponsor and decorate a Christmas Tree to reflect our school and the tree will be on display in St Aidan's Church throughout the festival weekend for our families to see.



Bag a Bottle or Two

Do you feel lucky? Why not visit our Bag a Bottle Stall on Monday 18th December at 3.30pm on the Junior playground and try your luck out. For only £2, you will be able to choose a sealed bottle bag with a lovely surprise inside. You could win a bottle of prosecco, a bottle of red, white or rose wine, or if you are really lucky it could be a bottle of bucks fizz, some bottles of beer or mulled wine. We have over 100 lucky bags to choose from.



Children's Lucky Dip

Next to the Bag a Bottle Stall, we will also have two boxes of children's lucky dip items. All items are

brand new and we know that the children love to have a dip in the lucky prize box.



Christmas Hamper Raffle



Two books of 5 raffle tickets have been sent home with your children. (2 books per family)

The tickets cost £1 each or £5 for the whole book. If you would like to enter the raffle, simply fill in the ticket stubs and return them to school, with the correct money, in a named envelope. Any unwanted tickets can be returned to school.

If you would like extra books, just ask at the office.



The hampers are full of some lovely treats - with every hamper

containing far more than the cost of a book of tickets.

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 20TH DECEMBER and winners will be invited into school to collect their hampers so that they are able to enjoy the contents over the festive season.

CAN ALL TICKETS/MONIES BE RETURNED BY MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER.

Christmas Day of Fun Monday 18th December

Monday, the 18th of December is our Christmas Day of Fun. We spend the WHOLE day getting into the festive spirit. (Our Christmas Day of Fun was introduced to replace our traditional Christmas Party afternoons, as many of our children didn't really enjoy the loud music and 'frenzied' dancing!)

The children are able to come to school dressed up in a 'Christmassy Way'. They can wear festive pyjamas, Christmas jumpers/t-shirts or dresses OR they can even come dressed as a character from our Christmas Pantomime, Aladdin, which also takes place on this day.

The children will take part in a range of festive activities throughout the morning and will also have the opportunity to play a game or two of Christmas Bingo.

At lunchtime, children on school meals will have their Christmas Dinner and those on packed lunches can bring in their own festive lunch.



After School Sports Clubs for the New Year



The following after school sports clubs will be on offer in January. If your child would like to attend, please complete the slips on the letters that will be sent home next week or just let the office know. Clubs cost

£2.50 per week and payment streams will be added to School Money once places have been confirmed. Places are limited and the clubs are very popular, so please book your place ASAP.

WEDNESDAY 10th Jan (5 weeks) 3.30—4.30pm

Key Stage 2 Dance Club. A different dance style will be explored every week.

Friday 12th Jan (5 weeks) 8.00—9.00am

Key Stage 2 Dodgeball

Friday 12th Jan (5 weeks) 3.30 - 4.30pm

Rec/Key Stage 1 Dance Club. A different dance style will be explored every week.

Sewing Club Y4 - Y6

Our sewing club has proven to be very popular this half-term, so Mrs Whipp has kindly agreed to run another block of sewing fun from Tuesday 23rd Jan - Tuesday 19th March, from 3.30 - 4.30pm.

The focus of these sessions will be Easter/Spring time.

In order to fund the cost of the club, a parental contribution is needed to buy materials and to pay Mrs Whipp for her time. The cost will be £27 for the 8 sessions.

Places are strictly limited to 15 so that the children can receive the help and support they need — especially if they are new to sewing.

If your child would like a place, please let the office know and we will set up a payment stream for you in the new year.





Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Abir
Year 4	Wilson
Year 5	Indiana
Year 6	Ruby

Bucket Fillers

Bucket fillers are children who fill other people's buckets (lives) with kind words and deeds. They are shining examples to others around them.

This week's Bucket Fillers are



Rec	Darcy for being a wonderful role model in class
Year 1	Carter for being so brave and getting up on stage to perform
Year 2	Henry for his positivity this week in class
Year 3	Rosie for looking after the classroom
Year 4	Eddison G for being a super sportsman at Boccia
Year 5	Maddison for supporting her classmates with their work
Year 6	Heidi for always tidying up after others



Good Work Stars



A huge well done to the following children who have all been recognised for their super work week.

Rec	Oscar B - fabulous mark making in the frost
Year 1	Henry S - super reading
Year 2	Noah - excellent Literacy work
Year 3	Daisy - a great diary entry
Year 4	Anna - a brilliant diary entry
Year 5	Harry - fantastic fractions
Year 6	Fred - pleasing effort in writing

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT to Niamh in Y6 who has been chosen because she is just such a super star in club and is an absolute joy to have. Well done



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Theo	George	Luna	Aayushi	Theo
Year 1	Sophia	Heidi	Alannah	Arya	Heidi
Year 2	George	Isabella-Rose	Grace	William	William
Year 3	Wallis	Olivia	Charles	Noah	Olivia
Year 4	Ally	Mae	Lucy	Henry	Henry
Year 5	Jude	Alfie Ba	Amelia	George	Amelia
Year 6	Annabelle	Mia	Freddi P	James B	Annabelle



School Holiday Pattern 2024 - 2025

Autumn Term 2024 : School opens on Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Closes for half-term on the evening of Friday 18th October 2024

School opens on Wednesday 30th October 2024

Closes for Christmas on the evening of Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025: School opens on Tuesday 7th January 2025

Closes for half-term on the evening of Friday 14th February 2025

School opens on Monday 24th February 2025

Closes for Easter on the evening of Friday 4th April 2025

Summer Term 2025: School opens on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Closes for half-term on the evening of Wednesday 21st May 2025

School opens on Monday 2nd June 2025

Closes on the evening of Wednesday 23rd July 2025

happy
holidays!



OPEN TO EVERYONE
£5 PER YEAR
£3 PER VISIT FOR 15 ITEMS



ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, BILLINGE. WN5 7LA
OPEN EVERY FRIDAY 11.30AM - 2.00PM
(STARTING 1ST DECEMBER)

A WARM SPACE & WELCOME AWAITS YOU ALL



PROUDLY PRESENT A
MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

FEATURING - BILLINGE MUSIC GROUP,
VALLEY BRASS TRAINING BAND
& OTHERS

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, BILLINGE. WN5 7LA

1PM - 3PM

ADMISSION £2 - PAY ON ENTRY

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

ANY DONATIONS TO
ST AIDAN'S FOOD PANTRY
WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

