



St. Mary's News

November 10th 2023



Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year



Important Dates



Friday 10th November 2023	Y5/6 children to take part in the Billinge Remembrance Walk and Service
Monday 13th November 2023	Non Uniform Day 1 Donations of Christmas Chocolates/Selection Boxes
Tuesday 14th November 2023	Reading Workshop for Reception parents/ carers 9.15am—10.00am . See class blog for further details
Monday 20th November 2023	Non Uniform Day 2 Donations of bottles/festive spirits
Monday 20th November 2023	KS2 Anti Bullying Assembly for parents/carers 2.45pm. Sign in at the office from 2.35pm
Monday 27th November 2023	Non Uniform Day 3 Donations for our Colours of Christmas Hampers
Tuesday 28th November 2023	PTFA Selection Box Bingo - see newsletter for further details
Thursday 30th November 2023	Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Movie/Craft Night 3.30—5.15pm £5 per child
Tuesday 5th December 2023	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm Tickets limited to 2 per family/per day
Wednesday 6th December 2023	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm Tickets limited to 2 per family/per day
Thursday 7th December 2023	Key Stage 2 Christmas Movie/Craft Night 3.30 - 5.30pm £5 per child
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
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

Non-Uniform Days

You will see on the calendar that there are 3 non uniform days planned during this half term - Monday 13th, 20th and 27th November. We use these days to collect items for our Christmas fundraising activities so we are extremely grateful for your kind donations.

Day 1— Monday 13th November - we are asking for donations of Christmas chocolates e.g. tinned sweets, selection boxes, chocolate oranges etc

Day 2— Monday 20th November - we would be grateful for any bottle donations—especially those bottles that contain festive cheer :)

Day 3 — Monday 27th November - Colours of Christmas Hamper donations.

Every year we hold a Christmas Hamper Raffle to help raise valuable funds for our children. Thanks to your donations, the hampers that we are able to create are fantastic - and are well worth winning. This year, we are hoping to create a selection of different hampers that contain items of similar Christmas colours - Hence the title **Colours of Christmas Hampers**.

We are asking for donations of: food and drink (all in date); unopened toiletries; new toys/games/jigsaws; stationery; decorations; chocolates, Christmassy gifts etc. in the correct colour (or containing some of the colour) for your child's class. Your gifts do not need to contain both colours allocated to your child's class—just one of the colours is fine. Colours for each class are: Reception: Red/Orange Year One: Gold/Blue Year Two: Blue/White Year Three: Purple/Pink Year Four: Green/Pink Year Five: Silver/Purple Year Six: Red/Gold

Thank you in advance for your support.

Books of raffle tickets will be sent home at the beginning of December for you to enter the raffle. You are also welcome to sell extra tickets to your friends, families, neighbours etc.

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 20th December.



Charges for the Half-Term

Many parents prefer to pay for lunches etc for the half-term rather than on a weekly basis. Please see costings below. All money must be paid using the School Money App.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRICE OF SCHOOL MEALS HAS INCREASED TO £2.60 PER DAY.

Lunches - £88.40

Fish/Pizza & Chips

Friday - £18.20

Toast - £10.20



Christmas Lunch

Cook will be serving her tasty, Christmas Lunch on Monday 18th December. If your child would like a School Christmas Lunch on this day, then please let the office know by **the end of November** at the very latest. The lunch costs £2.60 and can be paid for via School Money,

once you book your child's meal.

If your child would prefer to bring their own packed lunch, then why not send in a cracker and other festive treats to make it a lunch to remember.

Guitar Awards

Congratulations to

Thea from Y4

who was chosen as Mrs Connolly's Music Star of the Week last week.



Reception - Phonics and Reading Workshop (Reminder)

Miss Berks will be holding a phonics and reading workshop for Reception parents/carers on Tuesday 14th November from 9.15 - 10.00am. Parents/carers can sign in at the school office. Following the workshop, you will have the opportunity to spend 15 mins sharing a book with your child in class, so please bring along a favourite story. Miss Berks has included details of the workshop in her class blog.



Autumn Disco and Scarecrow Hunt

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the PTFA's first fund raising events of the year a huge success. We raised a fantastic **£600** at the disco and a further **£100** from the Scarecrow Hunt.

It was lovely to see the children enjoying the Autumn Disco - they looked amazing in their Halloween Costumes. We were also very impressed by the many different scarecrows on display throughout our local area, as part of our scarecrow hunt.

The winners of the design a scarecrow competition and scarecrow hunt will be announced shortly.



Selection Box Bingo

The PTFA will be running their popular Selection Box Bingo on Tuesday 28th November.

Due to the popularity of the event, two separate sessions will be run. The first session will run from 3.45pm - 5.00pm and the later session will run from 5.15pm - 6.30pm. Offering 2 sessions will hopefully enable as many people as possible to attend.

Both sessions will be ticketed - with a maximum of 100 tickets being sold for each session. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will go on sale, in the front entrance hall, at 9.00am on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th November. Tickets cost £3 each and will include a book of bingo tickets. If your child attends breakfast club and you would like tickets, you can hand in your money (in a named envelope) to a member of staff on the Thursday/Friday morning, and they will get the tickets for you.

A range of Christmas stalls will be open during the event and refreshments will also be on offer.

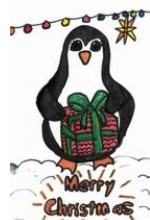


Christmas Fund Raiser

Before half-term, as part of our fundraising initiatives, all of our children created their own Christmas pictures which have been uploaded onto mychildsart.co.uk for you to view. Their designs can be printed as Christmas cards, or can appear on a range of other items like mugs, key rings etc.

You will have received information this week on how to order Christmas items/gifts, containing your own child's design. If you order before **16th November** and use the code **StMarys7** during checkout, you will receive a 10% discount off your order.

School will receive 20% of all money raised.



Over the Years - Money raised by the PTFA has helped school to:

- ◆ Update IT equipment
- ◆ Fund the cost of the annual pantomime
- ◆ Buy a class set of reading books for every class
- ◆ Buy Leavers Hoodies for our Y6 children
- ◆ Part fund the cost of music lessons
- ◆ Purchase musical instruments
- ◆ Buy a portable speaker and sound system
- ◆ Buy a new football kit for the school

All of our children benefit from any money raised. Your support is really appreciated.