



St. Mary's News

November 24th 2023



Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year



Important Dates



Monday 27th November 2023	Non Uniform Day 3 Donations for our Colours of Christmas Hampers See newsletter for further details
Thursday 30th November 2023	Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Movie/Craft Night 3.30—5.15pm
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
Friday 8th December 2023	Billinge Christmas Tree Festival Choir are invited to sing, with the other Billingem Schools at the opening of the festival 10.00am
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)
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

Meet our Reading Influencers

Year One	Isaac	Chloe
Year Two	Alfie	Grace
Year Three	TJ	Wallis
Year Four	Ralph F	Erin
Year Five	Harry S	Eliza
Year Six	Jonathan	Heidi

We love to read at St. Mary's. Books transport us to different worlds and help us to experience new adventures. In order to share our love of reading and to promote different authors and stories throughout our school community, the following children have been chosen as Reading Influencers to shine a light on all of the wonderful books and authors out there, for their class mates to read and try out for themselves.

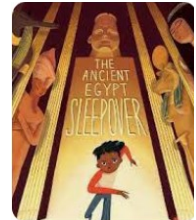


Every week, one of our Influencers will recommend a book for others to read, so look out for their recommendations in our weekly newsletter.

This week, TJ and Wallis, from Y3 have recommended *The Ancient Egypt Sleepover* by Stephen Davies. They say, 'It's an exciting book set in a museum and it is set in Ancient Egyptian times.'

TJ and Wallis say that the book is suitable for Key Stage 2 children - Y3 and older and they would score it 10/10.

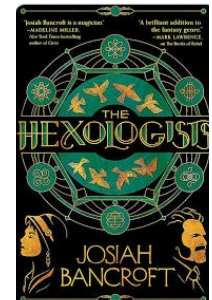
Thank you TJ and Wallis for this recommendation. Look out for a new book next week.



Introducing Miss Gradwell as a reader:

I have always loved reading. When I was little, I loved fantasy books especially Harry Potter. I always pre-ordered the books and read them on the day they came out. I had so many books growing up and have kept them all, my mum's attic is like a small library! I also still have a bookcase that was built for me by my Grandad when I was just 3 years old!

I still love reading fantasy stories as I enjoy escaping into new worlds. I also enjoy crime and thrillers especially *The Jack Reacher* series by Lee Child and the *Colter Shaw* series by Jeffrey Deaver. I can usually be found curled up on the sofa with a book after school or during the holidays. One of my favourite things to do is pre-order books at the start of each year, so that when I get home, I am surprised when a book is waiting for me. So far this month I have read *Masters of Death*, *The Secret*, *56 Days*, *The Company*, *A Curse for True Love* and *The Hexologists*. I am looking forward to starting *The Temple of Fortuna* next as it is the final book in a trilogy that I have loved!



Selection Box Bingo

Many thanks to all those families who bought tickets to attend the Selection Box Bingo on Tuesday 28th November. Please remember that due to the popularity of the event, that there are 2 sessions. Red tickets are for entry to the earlier session of 3.45pm— 5.00pm and green tickets are for the later session from 5.15pm - 6.30pm. Please do not turn up without a ticket as sessions are full.

Children MUST be accompanied by an adult. There will be a range of Christmas stalls and refreshments will also be on sale.

We look forward to seeing you then.



PTFA

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 all received information on how to order Christmas items/gifts, containing your own child's design.

School will receive 20% of all money raised.

Thank you for your support.



Non-Uniform Days

You will see on the calendar that there is one final non uniform day remaining for this half term - Monday 27th November. We use these days to collect items for our Christmas fundraising activities so we are extremely grateful for your kind donations.

Final Day – 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.



Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you for your generous donations of bottles last week.

These donations will be used to create a bottle stall at the

Selection Box Bingo.



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.



School Menus

New Lunch Menu

A new, winter school lunch menu was launched last week.

The menu has been uploaded onto the school website for you to see.

If your child would like a school meal, just let the office know.

School meals can be flexible, so your child can have a packed lunch some days and a school meal on other days. Meals must be paid for in advance and can be paid for using School Money.



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 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.



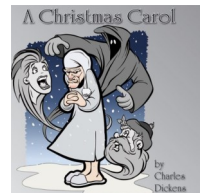
The event is free to attend— we simply ask for donations, on the day, to help with the costs of refreshments.

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 will be put up on School Money on Monday 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.





Guitar Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as

Mrs Connolly's 'Guitar Stars of the Week'.

Week beginning 14/11
Anna from Y4



Week beginning 21/11
Indiana from Y5

Year 3 Beginner Guitar Classes

A letter went home last week to our Y3 children from Mrs Connolly inviting them to join her new beginner guitar classes that will start on a Monday, after school (after Christmas).

Full details were included in the letter.

Places are filling up quickly, so if your child would like to join, please let school know. School can provide a guitar, but it may make a nice Christmas present from Father Christmas.



Toy Appeal

If you are busy sorting out your cupboards before Christmas, our ABC would welcome donations of any unwanted toys, games, lego, jigsaws etc as long as they are in good repair, and all pieces are present.

If you know of anyone throwing away a Wii please ask them to 'throw' it our way as our console is playing up and the children are disappointed when they can't use it without it glitching.

Any donations can be sent into the school office. Thank you.



Lighting the Billinge Christmas Tree Poster Competition 2023 - FINAL CHANCE



All of our children have been invited to enter the Lighting the Billinge Christmas Tree Poster Competition. The aim of the competition is to design a poster advertising the lighting of the Billinge Christmas tree.

The poster may be as imaginative as your child would wish, in past, present or futuristic mode. It can be A4 or A3 in size and should include your child's name, age and school name on the back. Posters need to be brought into school no later than Monday 27th November, when they will be collected for judging by the local parish council.

The poster must contain the time, date and venue for the event. (Friday 8th December at 6pm at the Millennium Garden)

A winner will be chosen from each class and they will receive a £15 gift voucher. An overall winner for the school will also be chosen and they will receive a £25 gift voucher.



Anti-Bullying Assembly

A big thank you to all of the parents/carers/grandparents who attended our Key Stage Two Anti-Bullying Assembly on Monday. We were overwhelmed by how many of you were able to

attend and the children were thrilled to be able to share their important messages about bullying with you all.



Billinge Christmas Tree Festival

St Aidan's Church are holding a Christmas Tree Festival, once again this year. The festival will run over the 8th, 9th and 10th December.

Our Y5/6 choir members have been invited to sing with the other Billinge schools at the opening of the festival on Friday 8th December at 10.00am. Mrs

Taylor will send home further details.

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.

There are usually lots of events happening as part of the festival—we will share further details with you, once they have been formalised.





Christmas Movie/Craft Nights



We will be holding our popular Christmas Movie Nights on **Thursday 30th November** from 3.30 - 5.15pm for **Reception, Y1 and Y2** and on **Thursday 7th December** from 3.30 - 5.30pm for **Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6**.

The cost of the Movie Night is £5 per child and can be paid for via School Money. Refreshments, and crafts, are included in this price. All payments must be made by **12.00 noon on Tues 28th Nov for Reception, Y1 and Y2** and by **12noon on Tues 5th December for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6** to enable time for resources to be prepared.

All of the children have been voting for the movie that they would like to watch. Here are their choices. By paying for your child to attend Movie/Craft Night, you are consenting to them watching the movies listed below.

Reception	A selection of Christmas cartoons Craft activities and a snack
Year 1	A selection of Christmas cartoons Craft activities and a snack
Year 2	Alien Christmas Craft activities and a snack
Year 3	How the Grinch Stole Christmas Craft activities and a snack
Year 4	Home Alone Craft activities and a snack
Year 5	How the Grinch Stole Christmas Craft activities and a snack
Year 6	Home Alone 2: Lost in New York Craft activities and a snack

If your child is not attending the Movie Night then let the office know and they will remove the payment stream.



ABC will be open as normal on both Movie/Craft Nights.

Pick up Arrangements for Movie Night

In order to help with traffic congestion, please collect your child from the **places listed below and at the times stated**. As the staff car park will be very busy, it would be safer to park at the club and walk around the church path. If using the front car park, please drive very slowly. All children **MUST** be collected by an adult. No child will be permitted to walk home alone.

Rec	Collect from main entrance door	5.10 - 5.15pm
Year 1	Collect from Infant Hall side door	5.10 pm
Year 2	Collect from Infant Hall side door	5.15pm
Year 3	Collect from Infant Hall side door	5.20 - 5.25pm
Year 4	Collect from fire door at the front of school next to ABC door	5.20 - 5.25pm
Year 5	Collect from main entrance door	5.30pm
Year 6	Collect from Junior Hall - ABC door	5.30pm





Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Thomas FP
Year 4	Lyla
Year 5	Alfie Ba
Year 6	Brooke

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	Lillia for being a super friend and helping others
Year 1	Ava for always being such a kind friend to others
Year 2	Edith for using her lovely manners
Year 3	Mika for always trying hard to be the best that she can be
Year 4	Leo for always volunteering to help with jobs
Year 5	Penny for looking out for others and being a good friend
Year 6	Freddi P for behaving impeccably at all times



Good Work Stars



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

Rec	Billy - sharing his knowledge of hibernation
Year 1	Isabella - amazing effort in phonics
Year 2	George - marvellous mathematics
Year 3	Abir - sharing his super knowledge and experiences of Hinduism with his classmates.
Year 4	Jude - amazing area work in maths
Year 5	Lucas - super multiplying and dividing
Year 6	Ewan - fantastic scary setting description

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT to Alfie Ba from Y5 who has been chosen this week, as he is always helpful in club. Well done Alfie.



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Finn	Max B	Jaxson	Aayushi	Max B
Year 1	Freddie	Lola	Hettie	Henry S	Freddie
Year 2	Luke	Arlo	Tyler	Sofia	Tyler
Year 3	Theo	James	Eliza	Rosie	Theo
Year 4	Alanna	Freddie	Evie	Henry	Henry
Year 5	Scarlett	Alfie Br	Elliot	Emmie	Elliot
Year 6	Alex	Lucas	Andrew	Ethan	Alex



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

