



# St. Mary's News

## 15th December 2023



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. What a busy week we have had! The days have flown by. We even had a visit from Father Christmas! We can't believe that Christmas will soon be here.

### Community Christmas

It was wonderful to welcome so many members of our local community into school, on Wednesday, to hear our wonderful choir sing. The refreshments went down a treat and it was also lovely to see our children sitting and chatting and having a good time with our guests, once they had finished performing. Everyone appeared to have had a lovely time and our guests left full of Christmas cheer. See our photos at the end of the newsletter.



### Choir Christmas Sing-a-Long

A fantastic evening was had by all at our Choir Christmas Sing-a-Long on Thursday evening. The choir sang their hearts out and it was lovely to see some of our families getting involved too. The children have worked so hard preparing to perform over the Christmas period and have been a credit to themselves and their families. We want to say a big thank you to Mrs Taylor - who works so hard with our choir. Her own passion and enthusiasm clearly rubs off on our children. Thank you, also, to the staff who stayed behind to help serve refreshments. It was much appreciated.



### Christmas Hamper Raffle

Our fabulous Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn on **Wednesday 20th December**. If you want to take part in the draw then please return your tickets by half-past 3 on Monday 18th December.



The hampers are full of some lovely treats - with every hamper containing far more than the cost of a book of tickets.

The raffle winners will be contacted on Wednesday 20th December following the draw and will be invited into school to collect their

hampers, on the Wednesday and Thursday, so that they are able to enjoy their contents over the festive season.

None of the hampers are ticketed. Winners are free to choose the hamper they prefer.

### Well Done Reception



We were so, so proud of our Reception children (and their teachers) today when they performed their Christmas Play - 'The Nativity.' It is such a big step for the youngest members of our school community to stand up, speak and sing, in front of an audience, but they all did amazingly well. We hope that you all enjoyed seeing your children sparkle and shine and we are sure that you were immensely proud of them too.

They have all come such a long way since they started their learning journey at St. Mary's all those months ago. We can't believe how they have grown in confidence since September. It has been lovely watching them grow and flourish.

If you would like a copy of the production, don't forget to send in a named memory pen and we will copy the recording over for you. Just remember that it won't be up to the quality of a Spielberg production. It will just be a live record of what, we hope, will be the first of many opportunities for your children to perform during their time at St. Mary's.





## 'The Nativity' by Reception



Donkey: Will  
Mary: Emily T  
Joseph: James T  
Star: Alexander  
Shepherds: Oscar C, Oscar B,  
Aayushi, Theo, Harry C, Max B and  
Jaxson





**Kings:**  
Finn  
Harry K  
Max K

**Camels:**  
Elena  
James G  
Jacob

**Innkeepers:**  
Mychailo  
Darcy  
Emily S





### Angels:

Lillia, Luna, Brooke, George, Esme, Billy, Lyla, Robyn and Connie

### Christmas Day of Fun Monday 18th December

Monday 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 of the party afternoons.)



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 festive activities throughout the day and will also have the opportunity to play a game or two of Chocolate Bingo. At lunchtime, children on school meals will have their Christmas Dinner and those on packed lunches can bring in their own festive lunch.

**Congratulations to the 'Light the Billinge Christmas Tree' Poster Winners**



A big WELL DONE to the following children who were chosen as the winners of this year's Christmas Tree Poster competition.

- Rec: Robyn
- Y1: India
- Y2: Ava
- Y3: Robyn
- Y4: Mae
- Y5: Georgia
- Y6: Molly



Overall Winner: Mae

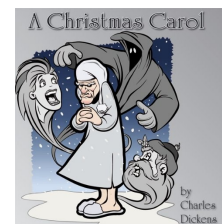
All of the winners will receive their gift vouchers on Wednesday when a member of Billinge Parish Council will come into school to meet the children.

A big well done to everyone who took part. The judges said that it was very difficult to choose a winner from each class, as the quality of the children's work was excellent.

## A Christmas Carol - Theatre Production



Our Key Stage 2 children were treated to a super theatre production of the Christmas Carol today. Following the show, the children took part in a question and answer session with the cast. It was a great experience for our children.



## Christmas Carol Service



We would like to invite you all to our Christmas Carol Service on Friday 22nd December at 2pm, in Church. Doors will open at 1.45pm.

Join us as we use readings and carols to both retell the Christmas Story and to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

All of the children will have the opportunity to sing a carol with their class, on the altar, and many of them will have the

chance to read.

The service should take about an hour and a quarter. The children will then be brought back to school where they will be dismissed by their class teachers.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB THIS EVENING.



## Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Times



The children's Christmas Eve Mass will begin at 6.30pm. Children can attend Mass dressed in a Nativity Costume; Christmas Jumper or their Christmas Pyjamas (so that they are ready for bed).

There will be two Masses on Christmas Day — one at 8.00am and one at 11.15am. Father would love to see the children at Mass over the Christmas period. There may be a special visitor at both of the Children's Masses. Christmas cards have been sent home this evening with these details on them.



## School Lunch



## Charges for the Jan/Feb 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

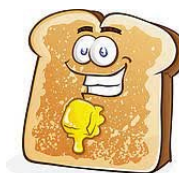
using the School Money App.

Lunches: £65.00

Fish/Chips/Pizza

Fridays: £13.00

Toast: £7.50



## And Finally .....

As this will be the last newsletter of 2023, the staff at St. Mary's would like to wish all of our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe everyone; have a lovely break and we will see you all again on Monday 8th January 2024.



## A Final, Final Thought

When you have Christmas in your HEARTS  
It doesn't matter  
What's under the tree!



## Y5/6 Multi Skills

A big SHOUT OUT to Andrew, Ewan, Angus, Lucas, Harry, Oliver, Alfie and Stanley who were chosen to represent the school at a St Helens Multi Skills festival on Wednesday. The children had a great time, performed brilliantly, and were great sporting ambassadors for the school.



## Y4 Boccia



A big WELL DONE to our Y4 Boccia team who represented the school last week at a local festival. The team played amazingly—only losing 1 match! Our congratulations go to: Romeo, Ally, Mae, Joycelin, Eddison and Jude.



## Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year

### Important Dates



<b>Monday 18th December 2023</b>	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
<b>Friday 22nd December 2023</b>	Christmas Service in Church 2.00pm School closes for Christmas No After School Club this evening
<b>Monday 8th January 2024</b>	School re-opens Breakfast and After School Club open as normal. Can we remind parents that places must be booked, and paid for in advance—unless in an emergency. Several children have started to attend club without being booked in.
<b>Monday 8th - Friday 12th January 2024</b>	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.
<b>Tuesday 9th January 2024</b>	Reception Class Hearing Checks Information and Consent Letters have been sent out
<b>Wednesday 10th January 2024</b>	Key Stage 2 Dance Club begins—5 weeks (3.30-4.30pm) A different style of dance every week.
<b>Friday 12th January 2024</b>	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
<b>Tuesday 23rd January 2024</b>	Y4/5/6 Sewing Club The club will run every Tuesday for 8 weeks from Tuesday 23rd January until Tuesday 19th March Let the office know if your child would like to join.
<b>Thursday 25th January 2024</b>	Key Stage 2 Choir restarts.
<b>Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th June 2024</b>	Y6 Residential Trip to Robinwood.
<b>Saturday 22nd June 2024</b>	Y4 First Holy Communion Mass 10.00am
<b>Monday 15th July 2024</b>	Whole School STEM Week



## A Visit from Santa

Father Christmas came to see us on Monday. He came in his sleigh, but unfortunately due to the rain, he had to come inside to chat with us—rather than us going outside to see his sleigh.



Father Christmas told the children that he was carefully monitoring the naughty and nice lists and that the children still had time to make good choices so that they can be on the nice list - just in time for Christmas.

He did say that all of the staff are on the naughty list BUT we are certain that this is not the case!







## Community Christmas



Our fabulous choir above and, below, we have a little bit of audience participation to help our children sing The Twelve Days of Christmas.











We look forward to seeing everyone again next year -

Same Time  
Same Place

