



Our Christian Value for the term: Caring

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31

Dear Parents and carers,

We have had another busy two weeks in school since our last newsletter came out. As we have now reached December, we are starting to prepare for all things Christmassy. The Christmas choir performed at the Friendship Cafe yesterday and we are looking forward to singing to the town this evening at the Christmas Lights Switch on.

We were very excited to welcome the education team from Dyson into school last week. Thank you to Mr Hainsworth for organising this - the Year 6 children enjoyed their time working with them. Some children went along to Westonbirt School today to watch a performance of Frozen - very suitable considering the weather this morning!

We have a few new faces in school at the moment. We are welcoming students in from various colleges and schools who are doing some work experience and we have Mr Martin who is helping out in Beech Class whilst Mrs Offord is incapacitated, we also have Mrs Smith who is helping out in Reception.

We have a lot of absence due to sickness at the moment. There are cases of vomiting and diarrhoea across the school. We will continue to ensure that the children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. Please remember that children need to stay off school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness before returning to school.

Mrs J Woolley, Headteacher

Upcoming Diary notes:

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- 1st December Tetbury Light Switch on 7pm
- 8th December Non Uniform to school in exchange for either chocolates or wine for the fayre tombola.
- 8th December PTFA school Christmas Fayre 5pm 7pm £2 entrance fee per Adult Children free
- 8th December Year 2 Christmas Production 'The Grinch' 2pm (tickets bookable on Parents evening system- tickets are limited)
- 13th December Year 4/5 Barn Theatre trip (packed lunch will be required)
- 14th December 'The Snowman' Good's Shed trip for Reception to Year 3 (AM)
- 14th December 'Nativity' Goods Shed trip for Year 6 (PM)
- 14th December Year 2 Christmas show 'The Grinch' 5:30pm (tickets bookable on Parents evening system- tickets are limited)
- 19th December EYFS and Year 1 Christmas production 'We're going to find a baby' 2.00pm(tickets bookable on Parents evening system- tickets are limited)
- 20th December Christmas Lunch
- 20th December EYFS and Year 1 show 'We're going to find a baby' 5pm (tickets bookable on Parents evening system- tickets are limited)
- 22nd December Last day of term. 1:30pm finish.









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St Saviour's Christmas Tree

Every year St. Mary's school decorate a tree for the St. Saviours' Christmas Tree Festival. This year children within Year 2 have made peace doves and mini Christmas trees.

Thank you to Mrs Makin and Mr Brown and the children in Holly and Juniper class for their contributions. The tree looks wonderful!

Dave Walters **Deputy Head**



EYFS Christmas

Can you believe it's nearly Christmas? In Reception we are into the full swing of Nativity practice and we have our very own Santa's Grotto! The children can't wait to show you all the Christmas songs they have been learning.

We kindly ask if you could make sure that children have an appropriate winter coat, gloves, hat and scarf, the weather outside is definitely frightful!

We are looking forward to our Christmas trip to the Good Shed, if you are able to help us walk up please come and speak to your Class Teacher. We will be visiting the Good Shed on December 14th at 9.45am.

Thank you

EYFS





₩eAreStMarys



St Mary's CE VA Primary School St Mary's Road, Tetbury, Gloucs GL8 8BW Tel: 01666 502 275 Office 9am - 3 30pm





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Remembrance

I represented 2nd Tetbury Brownies in the Remembrance Sunday Parade. We had a church service first then we went to St. Saviours, where wreaths were laid by different organisations. Ruby and Dylan laid a poppy wreath for St Marys.

In years 4/5 we did some Art work to remember the people who have died in wars.

By Eliza N









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Christmas Choir

Our Christmas choir have been regaling the Friendship Café at the Dolphins Hall with some lovely Christmas songs on Thursday this week. The children enjoyed standing on the stage and performing their songs, they enjoyed meeting the members of our community at the Friendship Café.







St Mary's CE VA Primary School
St Mary's Road, Tetbury, Gloucs GL8 8BW
Tel: 01666 502 275 Office 9am - 3.30pm







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Stone Age Day

Year 3 have been learning all about the Stone Age and on Wednesday 22nd November we had a Stone age experience day.

We came to school dressed in traditional clothing and the outfits were brilliant - there were lots of (faux) animal skins and fur, clothing in earthy tones, a few sticks and twigs made into jewellery and even a necklace made of bone (again it was fake!)

We spent the day experiencing what it would have been like to live during the Stone Age. We built shelters using sticks and lit fires in our Forest school. We also created clay lard lamps and tried a delicacy of pearl barley and mushroom soup.

We had a fantastic day and the I hope that the children came away feeling as inspired as the adults did.

Mr Bartrop and Mr Hainsworth

















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Christmas Cards

From Monday the Christmas post boxes will be available for children to post their Christmas cards to their friends and Teachers. EYFS and KS1 will be located in their cloakroom area and KS2 will be just inside the entrance off the year 3/6 playground – Please remember all cards must addressed in full with the child/teacher's name it is going to and the class they are in. We sometimes have cards posted with just first name on it and our sorting Elves do have trouble finding where these should go! If parents can just check the cards are addressed properly before they are brought in to school.

Dyson Engineers visiting our Yr 6 girls



Last Friday, our Year 6 girls had the opportunity to work with Engineers from Dyson as part of the James Dyson Foundation outreach programme. This session was aimed at our girls as there is a real shortage of girls pursuing careers in STEM subjects. They learned about the designing, testing and building process different products go through. They then had the opportunity to create a prototype of their own invention, using actual Dyson parts to enhance their design. The boys meanwhile, were designing and building as well using K'Nex and Lego.











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Forest School

On a cold and frosty morning...

Year 2 braved the cold and icy conditions this morning and spent the morning up at Forest School. Our Forest School Lead Ms Levan, taught the children how to tie a knot using elasticated rope and tarpaulins. Both classes had great fun making dens using these resources. Once the dens were built, the children sat around the fire to warm their hands. Very well deserved!















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SWR Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church – Yrs 3-Yr 6

We are delighted that St. Mary's KS2 children (Y3-6) have been invited once again to participate in the SWR carol service at St. Mary's Church on Tuesday 19th December

The children have been working hard with Mr Dillon, Deputy Head and Head of Music at SWR, to learn songs for the service and they will sing alongside older students from SWR and children from all the local schools.

We appreciate that this is a busy time of year and an evening event, but we would like as many of our KS2 pupils to attend as possible, as this is a wonderful opportunity for our children to perform and come together as a community to begin our Christmas celebrations. More information will come out to KS2 parents next week.

FGR Ambassadors

As the season progresses at FGR, Morgan and I have attended a number of matches, results have started to improve with wins against Scarborough, Crawley and Colchester with plenty of great goals too. A couple of these matches have been evening matches which have been fun to attend – I had my dinner at the ground too and was impressed by the vegan food. Morgan has had the opportunity of waving a flag as the players come out at the start of the match. We have worked on the noticeboard in the school hall so have a look at for more information on upcoming games and results. In the evening of last day of School there is a match at home against Gillingham and I am going to be a ball boy sitting on the edge of the pitch and giving balls back to players when they go out of play. This will give me a great view of the match!

By George W











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Bauble Competition

Congratulations to Elijah from Plum class for winning in KS1 and to Alice from Willow class for triumphing in KS2! Both children have been invited to join us in illuminating the Christmas Lights at the Market House on December 1st, 2023, at 7pm.

Tetbury Town Council want to express their appreciation for all the remarkable entries received. Every submission will be showcased on Tetbury Town Council's Christmas Tree in St Saviours from December 1st to January 2nd 2024











Friday 1st December 2023
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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 1st DECEMBER 2023—Tuesday 2nd JANUARY 2024
ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, NEW CHURCH STREET, TETBURY

Carol service will be held on Saturday 2nd December 5pm in St Saviour's Church followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Get in the Festive spirit and visit the Church to see a range of beautifully decorated trees representing local organisations, schools and clubs.

> All donations received will be gifted to the Churches Conservation Trust in aid of St Saviours Church.

If your organisation would like to take part please contact 504670 or email reception@tetbury.gov.uk













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Milk - Check now!!

It's now a good time to see if your child would still like milk at school - if not, please cancel it asap as it takes a to stop the deliver. Please cancel via www.CoolMilk.co.uk.

For children receiving free school milk, please still check as this is paid for by the school and this money could go towards other things. If you are unable to cancel for any reason, please contact the school office.

Swimming lessons

Next class swimming;

Maple class Wednesday 10th January – 21st February

Swimming lessons take place on Wednesday afternoons, taking place at Malmesbury Leisure Centre. The voluntary contribution for swimming is £4.75 per week. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum for PE which says each child should be able to swim at least 25 metres by the end of Key Stage 2.

Free school Meals (FSM)

If your <u>child</u> is <u>not</u> receiving free school <u>meals</u> at the moment and you think you may be eligible – apply now!

Please do not reapply if you are already receiving FSM.

All children in KS1 receive Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) which you do not apply for. However, it is worth checking if your child is eligible for FSM. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we will received extra funding if your child is eligible, you will need your National Insurance number to hand and your childs date of birth.

Parents can apply for free school meals via the following link-

Apply online for

FREE SCHOOL

MEALS

Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website www.gloucestershire.go.wuk/freeschoolmeals

Your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.

You could save use to be able to get extra support for five milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grafts and uniform grafts check with your school.

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/







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UPDATE from St Mary's School PTFA

Firstly, a massive thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Shopping night a success. From our wonderful helpers, to the amazing stall holders and of course everyone who came to shop, we really couldn't have done it without you, so thanks again. It was fantastic evening and we cannot wait to do it again next year!

And now onto one of our most anticipated annual events... Next Friday (8th December) is our Christmas Fayre. All the information is in the poster below. It is always a fun-filled evening for everyone and we'd love to see you all there. On that Friday, the children will be able to wear non uniform to school in exchange for either chocolates or wine for the fayre tombola. Please send this in with your child in the morning of the 8th, so we can ticket everything ready for the event. As always, help either during the day or evening is always appreciated, please email us (ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk) if you are able to help.











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Ice Cream Fridays!!

We will be selling ice creams after school every Friday in front of main reception.

- Cones, rocket lollies and Fabs are £1.
- Mini milks are 50p.
- We accept cash or card.
- We start selling at 3pm so please consider buying before you collect your child/ children.

If you are ever able to help sell ice-cream's, please contact us on ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk, it only takes half an hour of your time.

Easyfundraising.com

Easyfundraising is another easy way to support your child's school at no cost to you!

When you are doing any online shopping, click via Easyfundraising.com to support St Mary's school without it costing you a penny.

Do your online shopping via http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarystetbury/ and the retailer pays a percentage of your total without any charge to you.

Friends and family can also use Easyfundraising as an easy way to support your children's school.

Donate my school

You, your family and friends can continue to support St Mary's School Parents, Teachers & Friends Association by making donations here: https://donatemyschool.com/st-mary's-ptfa-tetbury-2345

Textile Recycler

The bin is located in the carpark by the Yr 3/4/5/6 playground. All funds raised by St. Mary's PTFA go directly towards benefiting each and every child that attends our school.

Please let the school office know if you find the bin full.









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Community Atlas Camp

Atlas Camps Christmas Camps (www.atlascamps.co.uk)

Christmas is just around the corner! Full of festive cheer, our award-winning camps will be back with a bang over the Christmas period, with a selection of spaces still available to book.

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted, Atlas Camps specialises in multi-activity clubs for children aged 4-14. With a focus on fun, activities on offer span everything from arts and crafts to sports and active play, all in a safe, enjoyable environment designed to cater for all.

- Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding'
- Childcare vouchers accepted from a variety of providers
- Early drop-off/ late pick-up options
- Sibling discount available
- Camps running both pre and post-Christmas period

For further information, please watch <u>this video</u> or check out the attached poster. Head to the Atlas Camps website at <u>www.atlascamps.co.uk</u> to book.









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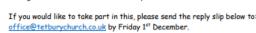
Community



Exciting news!

Mary and Joseph are once again preparing to travel around the Tetbury Benefice this Advent.

This year they will travel from one family to another. When they arrive, you can gather as a family, set up the scene, light a candle, read the story, say a prayer and arrange to take it on to the next family on the list.



The journey will start from St Marys Church at 10am on Sunday 3rd December and finish back at St Mary's church at 10am on Christmas Day. You are welcome to join us to see them start and end their journey.

<u>*****************</u>

If you would like to receive Mary and Joseph on a particular date do please let us know. No promises but we will do our best, first come first served! When you receive the Posada, you will be asked to contact the next person on the list and arrange a time to hand over the Posada family to them the next day, Don't forget to sanitise your hands first to keep everyone safel

Reply slip: Name:

Phone number

I give permission for my Phone number to be shared among the participants during December as the Posada travels round the Tetbury Benefice.

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Looking forward to hearing from you Sarah Parton (St Mary's Church)



Are you prepared for the journey? Family friendly service for all ages. Bring a friend.











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Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the **link** to the next issue Here is the **link** to the next issue of **Families**Gloucestershire Magazine Nov/Dec 2023

Our Nov/Dec 2023 issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar
- Top Christmas Experiences
- How to deal with cyber-bullying
- Homemade Xmas gifts for teacher
- Apps for improving maths skills
- and much more.....



