

Friday 15th December 2023

Our Christian Value for the term: Caring

‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Mark 12:31

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to report we seem to have beaten the nasty virus and after the four day break in infection and the deep clean, we are back to normal levels of absence. Thank you everyone for being so understanding.

We were very disappointed to have to cancel the Christmas Fayre, especially after all the planning the PTFA had put into it however the children have had lots of festive fun this week with our trips to The Goods Shed and the Barn Theatre. The Year 2 children have put on an wonderful performance of The Grinch - all the Year 2 children were amazing and particular mention should be given to Marin as The Grinch and to Florence who sang a solo as Cindy-Lou and Phoebe who stepped in at the last minute when Florence was ill. A huge thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to put the performance on.

We are looking forward to the last week of term. We have a nativity play from Year 1 and Reception to look forward to and Christmas lunch as well as the SWR carol service on Tuesday evening in St. Mary's Church where KS2 children will be singing songs they have learnt with Mr Dillon.

This is the last newsletter of 2023. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas break - we wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. School closes at 1.30pm on Friday 22nd December and will re-open for pupils on Monday 8th January at the usual time.

Mrs J Woolley
Headteacher

Upcoming Diary notes:

- 15th December – Year 2 Christmas show ‘The Grinch’ 4:30pm
- 19th December – EYFS and Year 1 Christmas production ‘We’re going to find a baby’ 2.00pm
- 19 December – Carole Concert with SWR YR 3-6 taking part – all families welcome to watch
- 20th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day
- 20th December – EYFS and Year 1 show ‘We’re going to find a baby’ 5pm
- 22nd December – Last day of term. 1:30pm finish.
- 2024
- 8th January – First day of term
- w/e 24th February – Yr 5 Bikeability (information to follow)
- 12th February – Half of Term
- 19th February – Inset day
- 20th February – 23rd February yr 5 Bikeability continues

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Year 4 and Year 5 visit the Barn Theatre

On Wednesday 13th December, Year 4 and 5 were fortunate enough to go to the Barn Theatre in Cirencester to see their production of Treasure Island. It was a fantastic experience for everyone, as we enjoyed watching the amazingly talented actors sing, dance and play a variety of musical instruments. The theatre staff commented on how well-behaved Year 4 and 5 were, and the children came away feeling very inspired. We would highly recommend a visit to the Barn Theatre!

The Year 4 & 5 Team



Yr 6 Visit to the Goods Shed

On Thursday afternoon, Year 6 watched Nativity! at the Goods Shed. Despite many of the children having watched the film several times before, they all had a great time joining in with the songs!



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Reception children

Reception children have had a very exciting week. They have been receiving video messages from Father Christmas and have been practising their nativity show. They also visited the Goods Shed to watch a live action performance of The Snowman. They were very well behaved and walked sensibly all the way.



On Friday 1st December a group of children from Years 5 and 6 went to Westonbirt School to watch their production of Frozen. There was excitement from the moment we arrived and entered the Great Hall. Here are just some of the comments from the children...

'It was amazing - I loved everything about it!'

'The singing and the acting was brilliant.'

'The scenery and costumes were just beautiful.'

Many thanks to Westonbirt School for inviting us - it was a real treat!

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Yr 2 Performance

We ended our week with the brilliant performance of 'The Grinch' by Year 2. It was great to see so many enthusiastic and determined performers, especially after so many had been unwell the week before. Every child in Year 2 had a line to deliver and the courage and confidence each one of them displayed was outstanding. Holly and Juniper classes have thoroughly enjoyed working on their performance. The joy the singing and dancing has brought them was certainly written all over their faces! Well done to everyone!

A special thanks must go to the adults involved in the production. Set designers and decorators, Mrs Smith and Mrs Rush worked incredibly hard on the backdrop as well as the props. They went above and beyond, and their dedication paid off when it all came together at the end with a set fit for the West End! Thanks also must go to Mrs Begum, Mrs Walton and Mrs Kennet who supported our set decorators as well as the children in their rehearsals and final delivery of the play.

We would also like to thank Marin's mum who came to the dress rehearsal and two performances to apply face paints for the whole cast. All of these added touches made the performance extra special, not only for the audience but the children too. Thank you All.

Mrs Makin & Mr Brown



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Clubs

Pop Choir

Pop Choir have been hard at work rehearsing a variety of songs this term, from music by Lewis Capaldi to Shakin’ Stevens. We were disappointed that our performance at the Christmas Fayre couldn’t go ahead due to the school’s necessary closure last Friday, but the children are looking forward to performing during Worship (for the second time in recent weeks) this Friday, and again at the Talent Show next week!

Our final rehearsal will take place on Tuesday 19th December after school, usual club time.

It has been such a pleasure to watch the children’s confidence as performers grow lately and I will miss our rehearsals when I begin my maternity leave early next term. Thank you, Pop Choir 2023, for a great run!

Mrs Williams

Club information for next week

Pop Choir will run as normal on Tuesday

All other clubs have now finished.

Please look out for new club information in the coming weeks.

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.

Thank you to those in Yr3 – Yr6 who have sent in slips/emails to confirm their child can or cannot attend the service. If you have not yet let us know, please email the school office to confirm if your child can or cannot attend and if they can please let us know the collecting adult details.

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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 child is not receiving free school meals 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 receive extra funding if your child is eligible, you will need your National Insurance number to hand and your child's date of birth.

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

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



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.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

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

If you do not have internet access, speak to your child's school.

You could save up to **£437** per year.

You may also be able to get extra support for free milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grants – check with your school.

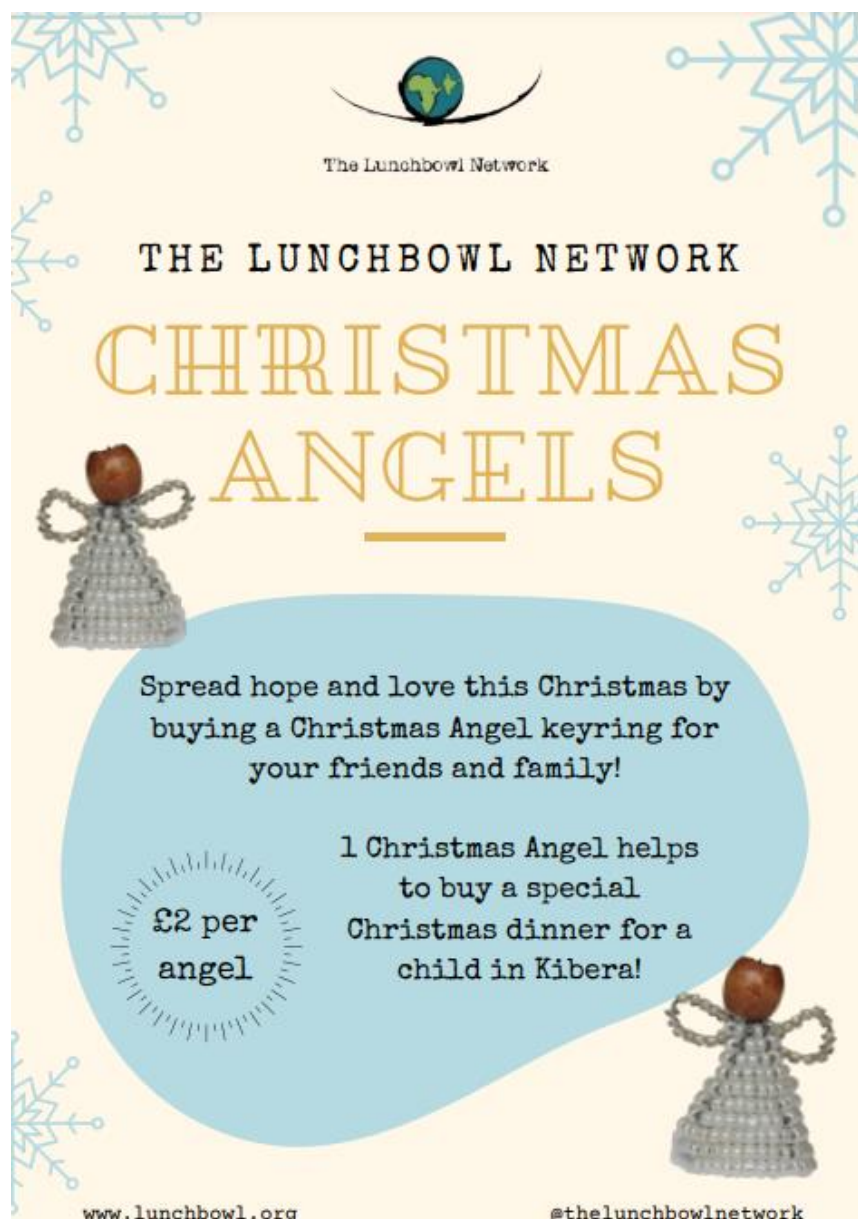
Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL

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**Lunchbowl Christmas Angels still available please see you class teacher
£2each**



The Lunchbowl Network

THE LUNCHBOWL NETWORK
**CHRISTMAS
ANGELS**

Spread hope and love this Christmas by
buying a Christmas Angel keyring for
your friends and family!

£2 per
angel

1 Christmas Angel helps
to buy a special
Christmas dinner for a
child in Kibera!

www.lunchbowl.org @thelunchbowlnetwork

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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.

Our tree is on show at the Christmas Tree Festival.



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



tetbury



**Churches
Conservation
Trust**



TETBURY TREES

8BW

Tel: 01666 502 275

Office 9am - 3.30pm



WeAreStMarys

www.stmarystetbury.com

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Hi everyone!

We hope you are all looking forward to a wonderful Christmas break.

Firstly, we are so sad that the Christmas Fayre couldn't go ahead this year but we hope next year will be better than ever! Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, this was drawn as planned on Friday and all winners have been contacted. Congratulations to you all.

We have so many exciting things planned for next year... More info on some of these events will be posted when we return in January, so watch this space!

Finally, we would like to say a HUGE thank you to every single one of you who has supported the PTFA over the last few months. Your support means so much to us and to the school.

Please stay safe and well and have a very merry Christmas!

St. Mary's PTFA

ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk

(Facebook: @wearestmarys)

Ice Cream Fridays are back!!

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.

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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 [this video](#) or check out the attached poster. Head to the Atlas Camps website at www.atlascamps.co.uk to book.

atlascamps ★

CHRISTMAS CAMPS

LOTS OF HOLIDAY **FUN**
WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S
AWARD-WINNING
CHILDCARE PROVIDER
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 - 14*
RUNNING 8AM - 5PM DAILY

SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO JOIN THE
SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

OR SIMPLY VISIT:
WWW.ATLASCAMPS.CO.UK

*SPECIALIST EYES CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AGED 3+ ALSO AVAILABLE

Ofsted Registered

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

HM Government
Childcare
Choices

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Community



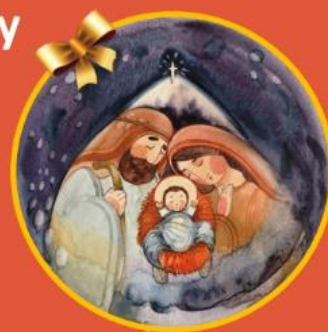
Bring all the family!

CHRISTMAS EVE GRIB SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE, 4PM
AT ST MARYS' CHURCH

We re-tell the story of Jesus' birth.
Children – dress up! We need
shepherds & sheep, kings and stars,
angels and donkeys!

You are warmly
invited to ...



FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE
10am Christmas morning
with Holy Communion

St Marys' Church, Tetbury
Church Street GL8 8JG

Share in the readings and carols for
Christmas morning as
we celebrate the birth of
Jesus, our Emmanuel,
God with us.

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Christmas @ St Marys'

Website www.tetburychurch.co.uk
Facebook www.facebook.com/StMarysTetbury

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The iSING POP TEAM invite you to

Christingle with us

Come and make your own Christingle
and enjoy some singing
around the fire!

*Please bring a donation with you
for the Children's Society*



4pm Sunday 21st January '24
at St Marys' Parish Church

Returning this Autumn to St Mary's School Hall ... You are invited to



CELEBRATE

For all the family, on Sunday afternoons (see dates below).

4.00pm - 5.30pm

Explore best-loved Bible stories and ask questions, big and little.

Enjoy time together with crafts, chatting,
sharing iSingPOP songs and prayers.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult please.

Celebrate is run by our
churches in Tetbury:
St Marys', Christ Church,
Five Valleys Christian
Fellowship & St Michael's
Catholic Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME

**New Christingle date: Sunday 21st January at 4pm
in St Marys' church**

Sunday 18th February in St Mary's school Hall

**Sunday 17th March in St Marys' Church with
Easter Egg hunt**

Please bring your own cup.

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JUST HELPING
Registered charity number 1149088

Recycle your Tree!

In aid of

 **LONGFIELD**
Community Hospice

Registration closes Tuesday, 9th January, 2024



www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

After costs, Longfield Community Hospice receive 90% and up to 10% will be distributed by Just Helping to other local charities. More information on where your donation goes can be found on our website.

We will be collecting & recycling trees from the 13th to the 16th January 2024.
Scan the QR code or visit our URL and enter your post code to register.



giftaid it

 registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

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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.....

