

Friday 12th January 2024

Our Christian Value for the term: Curious

'Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning.' William Arthur Ward

Dear Parents,

Happy New year to all our parents and children - I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays with family and friends.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Turner to Elm Class. Miss Turner will be covering Miss Browning whilst she is on maternity leave. We received the wonderful news that Miss Browning had a beautiful baby boy last week - I am sure you will join me in sending her all our best wishes.

We have had a calm start to Term 3 and it was lovely to welcome all the children back on Monday morning. This term is quite a short term of 5 weeks but we have lots to pack in. We will be welcoming Reception and Year 1 parents to school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 08.45 in the hall for our first reading breakfast of the year. We encourage all parents to come along and enjoy reading a book with your child and learn a bit about the importance of reading and how to help your child with reading at home. Other year group reading breakfasts will be held over the year and dates will follow.

Year 5 children will be completing their Bikeability in the weeks either side of half term. Further details to follow.

Please can I remind parents of our school uniform policy. All children from Year 1 to year 6 must be wearing white shirts and school ties. Ties are available from the school office. Children must also be wearing black school shoes, not boots or trainers. It is important to get children into good habits of wearing the correct school uniform before they go to secondary school and we appreciate parents support with this. We do have lots of second hand uniform in school - please come and ask at the office.

The teachers have put newsletters and other curriculum information onto the school website. Please go onto the school website and visit: <https://www.stmarystetbury.com/life-at-st-marys> you will see tabs for EYFS Foundation stage, KS1 and KS2 – please take a look at all the information available.

Mrs J Woolley  
Headteacher

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## Upcoming Diary notes:

19 <sup>th</sup> January – Reading Morning 8.45am EYFS & Yr1	29 <sup>th</sup> February – PTFA school Disco
5 <sup>th</sup> February – 9 <sup>th</sup> February Yr 5 Bikeability	12 <sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
9 <sup>th</sup> February – Last day of term	14 <sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening 4.00 – 7.00pm
19 <sup>th</sup> February – Inset day	
20 <sup>th</sup> February – First day of term	
20 <sup>th</sup> February – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February Yr 5 Bikeability continues	

## Forest school

My first Forest School sessions at St Mary's has been such a fun-filled time!

Juniper, Holly and Elm Class have been very busy: identifying all the trees in the school's fabulous forest school area; finding funky fungi; learning some knots to make ridge-line tents; making silver foil leaf prints and Christmas decorations. We have even found time to eat S'mores!

Thank you to Juniper, Holly and Elm for making my time with you all very memorable and I look forward to meeting Willow Class, Beech Class and Ash Class next week.



Ms Levan

Raffles Forest School Ltd.

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## Swimming lessons

Maple class Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

### Next class swimming;

Oak class Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Rowan class Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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.

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## 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 EYFS & 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](http://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 may also be able to get extra support for free milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grants – check with your school.

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

Gloucestershire  
County Council

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We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas.

Just a couple of updates from us this week as we begin a new year:

Firstly, an update on our fundraising total for this school year. So far we have raised £2048! We want to say a huge thanks to everyone who has supported our events and the Friday treat sales. This is a great achievement and we still have plenty of exciting things planned to help us to raise more funds throughout the rest of the school year.

This brings us nicely to announcing our first event of 2024 – the highly anticipated PTFA school disco! This will take place at the school on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February with timings to be announced closer to the date. This is always a popular event for the children so please pop the date in your diaries and look out for more information over the next few weeks.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to know how you can get involved with helping us at future events.

St. Mary's PTFA

[ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk)

(Facebook: @wearestmarys)

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## Ice Cream Fridays are back!

We will be selling ice creams again 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](mailto: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.**

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**st**  
**mary's**  
**ptfa**

## 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.

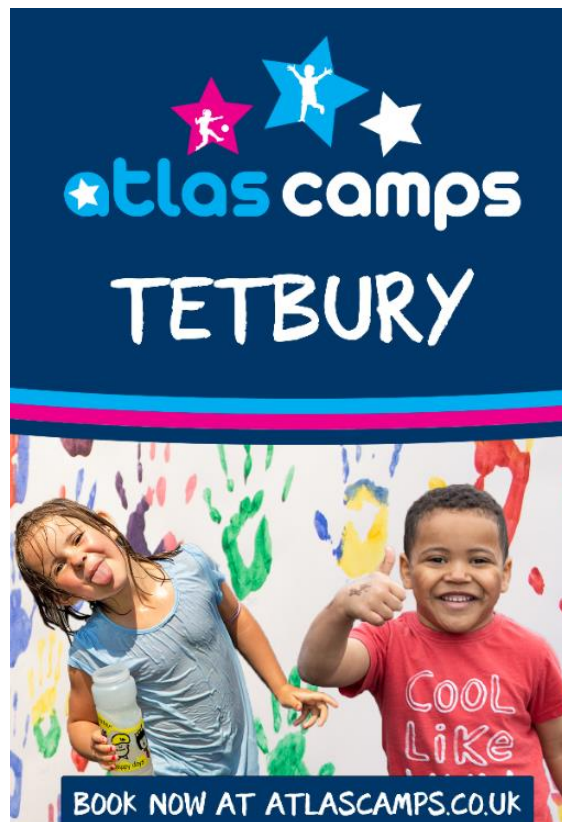
Please let the school office know if you find the bin full.



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## Community Atlas Camp

Book now for February half term;



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## Community

**St Mary's Church** are holding their Sunday morning services temporarily in the school hall starting Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. This service begins at 10am and lasts about an hour.

All are welcome

The last service in the school hall will be Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

We are doing this as we are seeking a little respite from the cold in the depths of winter and to explore further what it means to be church together.

Lots will be familiar.

LITTLE FISHES (our Sunday school) continues to meet ... and there's tea & coffee after the service

So please do come along and join us in the school hall!!

Poppy, Steve and Pauline

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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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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 21<sup>st</sup> January '24

at St Marys' Parish Church



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## Let's declutter sustainably!

### Declutter your wardrobe:

Still wearing it? ---- Keep

Needs attention? ---- Fix

Doesn't fit? ---- Charity shop / swap

Hate it? ---- Move it on....



### Find 10 things to pass on:

- Books
- Tools
- Clothes
- Gadgets
- Kitchenware
- Toys



For more ideas, see:

[www.greeningtetbury.org](http://www.greeningtetbury.org)

 **Greening Tetbury**

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**I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?**

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult, and crucially there is support available.

The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, **make a list of your debts and write down the details of each**. This could include who you owe the money to (this person or company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you are sorting them out.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you are looking at money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you are entitled to, including support with your energy and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, plus further advice on dealing with debts, on the Citizens Advice website – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers. You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)).

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## Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Please follow the [link](#) to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Jan/Feb 2024](#) ;

Our **Jan/Feb 2024** issue is packed full of useful information for parents including:

- How to make pancakes downloadable
- The importance of art in curriculum
- Best new books for kids around the world
- Helping your child with spelling
- and much more.....

