



# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

**DREAM** with all your mind,  
**BELIEVE** with all your heart,  
**ACHIEVE** with all your might.

**Autumn Term Newsletter**  
**December 2024**

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish today after an 8 week half-term, I think it's fair to say that whilst we are all very tired, the build up to Christmas has been truly magical for our children with our Christmas Nativities, Live Advent, Carol Services and today our Sponsored Run organised by Mrs Nethercot and a visit from the Lionel the Lion. The children did incredibly well, though I do think their might have been some miscounting as they got more and more tired. Thank you for your support with this!

### Performances

Massive congratulations and well done to all the children and staff involved in Foundation and Year 1 and 2 Christmas productions. The acting, singing, dancing and narrating were all absolutely fantastic. Well done children, we are all very proud of each and every one of you! It was lovely to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school to watch the children shine. Your comments in the visitors' book are truly special.

Thank you to all those parents and friends who joined us for the Years 3 and 4 Carol Service and the Remembering with Love Service. Every child gave a fabulous performance and should be very proud of their singing. All of the children's performances left us all feeling thoroughly Christmassy!

Let's not forget Years 5 and 6, who have delighted us with their class assemblies this term. I have high hopes for the Summer Production.

### Live Advent

Thank you for all your support during Live Advent. I want to express particular thanks for your generosity in collecting donations to go to the Hinckley Foodbank. They were truly overwhelmed with our donations which will help families in need within our school locality.

### School Website

The newsletter always contains a snap shot of your child's learning journey at St Mary's. Just a reminder that you can see a real flavour of our curriculum on the Class Pages of the school website. These are updated regularly and contain lots of information as well on how you can best support your child's learning.



## Christmas Fair

## Message from the Headteacher continued

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. It was a resounding success! We raised an incredible £1300. The atmosphere around school was lovely.

## Awards

In early December, our WAS well-being award was renewed. We are delighted with the feedback. Thank you to Mr Bond and the Change Team for their hard work.

The Wellbeing Award for Schools has significantly enhanced St. Mary's Primary School's ability to support emotional wellbeing and mental health. By embedding these principles into its culture, the school has not only improved outcomes for pupils and staff but also created a positive, nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

External validation from SIAMS and Ofsted reports highlights the school's success in prioritizing emotional wellbeing and mental health:

*St Mary's Primary School is much loved by pupils, parents, and carers. The school is a welcoming, caring, and positive environment.* – Ofsted, 2023.

## International Award

We are also delighted to have been awarded the Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award. The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. St. Mary's international work includes introducing Spanish as a new language to every pupil at the school, and promoting a better understanding of other cultures through music, alongside learning about the importance of the environment, achieving both the Eco-schools award and the Food for Life award. A huge thank you to Mr Cramp for his hard-work with this together with Ms Parry and Mrs Jenkinson.

Finally, as I reflect on this term, I'm pleased to say that St Mary's continues to go from strength to strength. We really are blessed to have the most amazing children, dedicated and talented staff, supportive parents and to be situated in a great community! Thank you to you all for your support in 2024, we are already looking forward to a spectacular 2025! If you have any questions, please phone school or email [office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk)

Have a really wonderful Christmas making memories with your family and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January ready for another busy and exciting term.

Best wishes

Mrs R Ayres  
Headteacher

**We all have the right to feel safe all the time.**

St Mary's Church of England Primary School Protective Behaviours Curriculum

# Foundation News

Shine Star Shine Nativity-What amazing stars we were in our Nativity!



Showing our Christian Value of Respect.



The children have had lots of fun getting ready for Christmas.



Making patterns, curves and pictures as part of our colours and feeling topic.



The children really enjoyed their first experience of Rock Kidz and were amazing Rock Stars!



We had fun playing skittles outside!

## Year 1 and 2 News

Year 1 and 2 have had a very busy half term in the run up to Christmas. We certainly have squeezed a lot in! In English, the children have continued to enjoy more story writing based on 'The Train Ride'.

They have also written an imaginative set of instructions for 'How to grow a Unicorn'. Along the way, we have taken part in fun experiences to support our writing.



For our DT topic, 'Stable Structures', we designed and made chicken coops which also linked with our Geography topic, 'Fun at the Farm.' The children showed great teamwork in their groups to create their designs. They also decorated their coops in bright colours to make them more inviting!

As well as our usual curriculum, we have been working hard in rehearsals for our Nativity. The children have really impressed us with their great attitude towards learning their lines, songs and actions. They were all superstars and we're very proud of them! Thank you so much for your support with the costumes and for coming to watch our performances.



As always, the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our Live Advent Activities, including going to see the pantomime, Dick Whittington and creating marshmallow snowflakes.



The Year 1/2 team wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Year 3 and 4 News



We loved our visit from Rock Kidz!

The children put on a great performance at our Christmas Carol service at St Mary's Church



We enjoyed making and tasting a Greek salad during our Food for Life afternoon



Commando Joe's - we worked as teams to avoid quick sand in the Sahara Desert during a sand storm.



Some of our Reading raffle ticket winners!



## Year 5 and 6 News

In Maths, Year 6 have been working with fractions - playing games to change improper to proper fractions; multiplying and dividing; adding and subtracting, as well as converting different imperial and metric measures.



On Remembrance Day, we all went to The War Memorial and took part in a service to remember all those that have died in the war.



Anti-bullying Week:  
Odd socks day.  
Children joined in by wearing odd socks for the day to show their support.



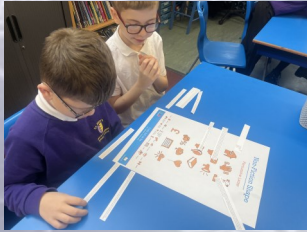
We were excited to have Rock Kidz share their own way of delivering the anti-bullying message through singing and plenty of fun activities. The children loved it.

Over the past few weeks, each year phase have had a food for life afternoon focussing on one fruit or vegetable. Lots of activities happened, including looking at the growth of the plant from seed to fruit, writing a recipe and then making that recipe so that children can make it at home. Also art activities and looking at how the food is produced for sale. What an enjoyable afternoon had by all and those who supported it. Thankyou



## Year 5 and 6 News

The Write Stuff  
Stimulating writing prompts have led to amazing writing from the children this term.



A great morning this week on sawing, using jinx corners and constructing frames for our bird boxes.



Too many books and not enough time!  
This term we invited parents in to read with their children. This was a popular event with many parents and grandparents coming in to school to share a book with the children.



## St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Once again we had the pleasure to participate in the St Mary's Church Christmas tree competition. Years 5-6 were tasked to create a 3D star, which incorporated specific folds and scoring techniques. We thoroughly enjoyed this and eagerly awaiting a positive outcome.



## Attendance in November

Foundation	88.5%
Year 1	88.6%
Year 2	91.4%
Year 3	95.0%
Year 4	96.8%
Year 5	89.4%
Year 6	95.2%



Overall attendance for the whole school for November was **93.1%**

This is **BELOW** our target

Please help us to increase this percentage by ensuring your child's attendance is good or better! If you need any support with this please speak to Mrs Perkins our Family Support Worker who would be happy to help and advise you.

Remember school opens at 8.40am when children line up in the playground ready for the start of the school day. Please don't be late!



Applications for Foundation school places for children born between 01/09/2020 and 31/08/2021 can be made via Leicestershire County Council at

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2025

Offers will be made on 16th April 2025.

## **A message from our Chair of Governors**

I am always delighted to attend Christmas productions at school. It is a joy to see how much enjoyment the pupils get from performing. I had the pleasure of watching our stars of tomorrow from Foundation class in their Christmas play. Only a few weeks at school and displaying real confidence!

The Carols by Candlelight was very well supported, and the setting was perfect. Our church is so welcoming to the school and the children feel at home there. This is partly due to the Church's Family Worker Bev Frettsome who some of you have met. She does lots of activities for children in the school holidays that are always advertised on the Church Facebook Page. It really is lovely to see our Church filled with young people and hear their voices. It was an enjoyable evening for all.

Governors have been meeting again this term working on our statutory duties. All our governors are volunteers and have work, family and other commitments. We appreciate their time given to school on your behalf. Please be patient with us if we cannot reply to you straight away.

We are hoping to set up a new Parent/school Association to raise funds for the benefit of our pupils. If you would like to join and have exciting ideas, you would be very welcome. We know that you have busy lives so we will keep the meetings short and purposeful. Details of the date of our first meeting will be sent out in the New Year.

May we wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas.

On behalf of the Governors, have a wonderful holiday, Christmas and New Year.

Judy Williams  
Chair of Governors

## Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 7th January 2024	School opens for Spring 1 term
Thursday 16th January	Young Voices - Resorts World Arena Birmingham (KS2 only)
Wednesday 5th February	Chanel Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 7th February	Fencing Enrichment morning for Years 5-6
Tuesday 11th February	Height & Weight Programme for Foundation & Year 6
Friday 14th February	School closes for half term break
Monday 24th February	School opens for Spring 2 term
Wednesday 3rd March	Newton Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 12th March	Gaudi Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 19th March	Stafford Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 26th March	Mothers Day Assembly Kahlo @ 9.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 26th-Thursday 27 March	KS2 trip to Beaumanor Hall
Friday 11th April	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 28th April	School opens for Summer term 3
Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday 21st May	Individual Pupil School Photographs
Friday 23rd May	School closes for half term break
Monday 2nd June	School opens for Summer 2
Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th June	Year 4, 5 and 6 residential trip to Isle of Wight
Wednesday 9th July	School closes for Summer holidays



Please follow us on our Facebook page here at St Mary's so why not give us a follow or a like! [www.facebook.com/stmaryscepts](http://www.facebook.com/stmaryscepts)  
Thank you.

### Christian Values

The Christian Value we are focusing on next half term Perseverance.

### Disclaimer

You will notice that from time to time the school circulates information provided by outside groups, regarding the services they offer or about local events in the area. Whilst we are happy to circulate the information for these parties, in the interests of offering our parents a varied picture of what is available outside of school, we in no way endorse them. We therefore recommend that Parents/ Carers should satisfy themselves that the group or event runs the necessary checks and precautions to safeguard themselves or their children before participating.



# HINCKLEY AFC GODMANCHESTER

21/12/24 | 2pm



KIDS GO FREE!  
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES

KIRKBY ROAD, ADULTS £8  
BARWELL, LE9 8FQ CONCESSIONS £6



[hinckleyafc.co.uk](http://hinckleyafc.co.uk)

# St Mary's Crib Service

## Christmas Eve @ 5pm



Any children who would like to join in please come dressed as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise persons, stars, angels or stable animals. Lets see how many children we can get in our Nativity this year!!! No acting or learning words needed. Come along and celebrate the birth of Jesus on this special night.

MERRY  
Christmas  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

# CHRISTMAS HAF SPECTACULAR

JOIN US ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT  
MATTIOLI WOODS WELFORD ROAD FOR  
A FESTIVE DAY FULL OF FUN!

ENJOY GAMES, STALLS, SANTA'S GROTTO  
AND SO MUCH MORE!

FREE FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-11 WHO RECEIVE  
FREE SCHOOL MEALS (SUBJECT TO  
ELIGIBILITY CHECKS)

9AM-1PM | 1PM-5PM (CHILDREN WITH  
ADDITIONAL NEEDS EHCP NEEDED)



To sign up >> <https://forms.gle/RaencMJkWPqbZSszCA>