

Parents and Carers,



Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families and it was filled with lots of love, laughter and happiness.

It has been lovely to see you all back in school, ready to embrace what 2024 has in store for us.

### New Year's Resolutions

*The children have come back with so much enthusiasm and are ready to learn. On Monday we had an assembly about the New Year and how a new year means we can make positive changes to ourselves and can improve ourselves, even a little bit.*

*The teachers and I have been so proud and touched by the resolutions and the hopes the children had for the coming year. They have all looked beyond themselves and thought about the positive changes they can make to help others.*

*For such young children this is a very mature thing to do.  
They are most certainly living the St Mary's Way*

### Happy Bag Collection

Thank you to all of you who contributed the Happy Bag Collection on Thursday. We raised £150 for the school. I know that I found it very useful going through my wardrobe and having a New Year clear out.

### St Bernadette Class Liturgy

Parents of the children in St Bernadette class you are invited to join us for your child's class Liturgy on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 9.15am. Please join us and be part of this act of worship.

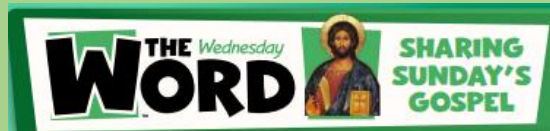
A reminder that the school day is from  
**8.55am to 3.25 pm**

Please ensure that your child is brought to school by 8.55 am and is picked up at 3.25pm

If the gates are closed and locked you will need to go to the school office to sign your child in / out.

If you are going to be late picking up your child at the end of the day can we please ask that you phone the school office to let us know so we can tell your child as they sometimes get upset.

If you are going to be considerably later than 3.25 we may have to put your child in our after-school club and charge you, as staff often have meetings after school that they need to attend.



<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/new-start?pid=MTA101634&p=2&v=115.2>

'After meeting Jesus, the two disciples, immediately noticed something new in their hearts'.

*Pope Francis*

'Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin'

*St Teresa of Calcutta*

**Dear Lord, please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and  
with others as we start this new year**

**Amen**

### Golden Table

This week I was lucky enough to be joined on  
the golden table by:

Joshua in St Andrew Class

Kamari in St George Class

Adaku in St Bernadette Class

Geetika in St Therese Class

Michael in St Francis Class

Nivaan in St Martin Class

They all had wonderful table manners and I  
could see why they have been invited to have  
lunch with me.

We had a lovely conversation about their  
favourite foods and what food they eat at home  
with their families.

### Job Vacancy

The Junior school are looking to  
appoint a school cleaner.

10 hours a week 3.30pm-5.30pm  
Monday to Friday. 52 weeks a year with  
28 days annual leave.

Salary 12.79 per hour

Start day Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

Please contact the Junior School office  
for the application form or look on the  
school website for details.

### Clubs

**Monday** – Swimming club –(KS1)

**Tuesday**- Zumba (KS1)

**Thursday**- Sports club

There are still spaces available,  
please enquire at the school  
office.

### Thank you

A huge thank you from me for all your generosity at Christmas. I was overwhelmed by all the  
gifts I received. I feel very fortunate to be part of a family with such kind and caring people. St  
Mary's really is a special place to be part of, so thank you.

Parents and Carers,

Haven't we been lucky with the weather this week. It might have been cold but it has been lovely to see the sunshine and blue skies. Just seeing the sun helps with our mental health and wellbeing and puts smile on everyone's face.

### St Bernadette Class Liturgy

*I was lucky enough to start my Wednesday morning being invited to St Bernadette's Liturgy. We talked about the people who are special to us and who help us. It was very touching to hear who is so special to the children and hear St Bernadette's parents talk about why their child is so special to them. The Bible story we heard 'The Presentation', taught us how Jesus was so special to Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna and how Jesus is the light of our lives and holds a special place in all our hearts.*

### A quick reminder

Can I please remind you to call the school office if you are going to be late bringing your child to school in morning or late picking them up after school. This will save you getting a call from Mrs Escrader to see why they are not in school yet or why they have not been picked up.

### School Hats

Can I please ask that your child in wearing the St Mary's school hat and scarf during this cold weather. I have seen a variety of colours coming into school over the last few weeks which are not part of St Mary's Uniform. I know how proud you, the children and the staff are of seeing the children in our uniform, so please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. If you are unable to get the school hat / scarf please ensure that they are blue or navy blue to match the uniform.

Thank you.

### Zoo Lab



We were very lucky to have a visit from Zoo. Lab this week.

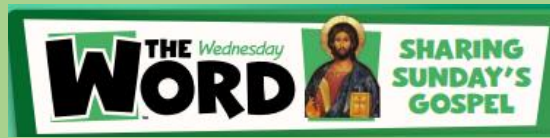
Reception and Nursery have been using the book Dear Zoo as a starting point for their learning this half term so Zoo Lab came in with all sorts of animal, from spiders, snakes, to gerbils and millipedes. It gave the children the experience to see, touch and learn about each one.

Year 1 and Year 2 also had the opportunity to see and learn about some of the animals in an assembly.

The children thoroughly enjoyed it (well most of it!) and it was magic to see the joy on their faces.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

**There are still some spaces for Sports club on a Thursday after school. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are all invited to attend.**



## COMMUNITY Loving & Growing

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/community?pid=MTA101634&v=116.3>

'The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us.'

*Pope Francis*

'Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community'

*St Baldwin of Canterbury*

Dear Lord, thank you for our school and parish **communities**. Please help me say 'yes' to you, and enrich the **communities** to which I belong.

Amen

### Golden Table

This week I was lucky enough to be joined on the golden table by:

Yanis in St Andrew Class

Skyla in St George Class

Aaron in St Bernadette Class

Hayden in St Therese Class

Kailannie in St Francis Class

Caster in St Martin Class

They all had wonderful table manners and I could see why they have been invited to have lunch with me.

We had a lovely conversation about their favourite foods and what food they eat at home with their families.

### Job Vacancy

The Junior school are looking to appoint a school cleaner.  
10 hours a week 3.30pm-5.30pm  
Monday to Friday. 52 weeks a year  
with 28 days annual leave.

Salary 12.79 per hour

Start day Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

Please contact the Junior School office for the application form or look on the school website for details.



**Come and join us every Wednesday**



**9.15am - 11am**



**If you have a child who is not yet Reception age, come along with them to meet and play with other children and you can have a chat and a tea /coffee with other parents.**

**Look forward to seeing you there**

Parents and Carers,

We all had a fun day on Friday for number day. I enjoyed finding out what each class was doing and how they were celebrating numbers.

## Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing week 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February



Children's mental health and wellbeing is always at the forefront of our minds so we will be joining the rest of the country in marking Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing week. The children will be taking part in a variety of activities throughout the week.

At home you can talk to your child about moments through the week that they are proud of

You could get your child to write a letter to someone that made them feel better.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING  
ME TO FEEL LIKE I MATTER!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

When you \_\_\_\_\_  
I felt \_\_\_\_\_ and that felt good!

Everyone needs to feel like they matter –so thank you for  
helping me to feel like I matter!

From  
\_\_\_\_\_

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will end our Children's Mental Health Week by dressing in something that makes us happy. I look forward to seeing lots of smiley faces on that day.





## HEALING 3 Loving & Growing

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/teacher?pid=MTA101634&v=117.3>

**'Prayer is certainly the most wonderful medicine in the world'**

*St Hyacinth*

**'Love is the first ingredient in the relief of suffering'**

*St Pio Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)*

Dear Lord, help us to **heal** and bring comfort with kind words and good deeds, sharing your warmth and care every day.

**Amen**

### Golden Table

Unfortunately, I was unable to be on the Golden Table as I had a meeting. Miss Garner had the pleasure of sitting at the Golden Table. She was joined by:

- Riley in St Andrew Class
- Annlyn in St George Class
- Lula in St Bernadette Class
- Antonio in St Therese Class
- Gabby in St Francis Class
- Caterina in St Martin Class

Miss Garner told me they all had wonderful table manners and could see why they had all been invited to have lunch with her.

### PARENTS EVENING

We have Parents' Evenings after half term:

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February are our face to face meetings

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February are our virtual meetings via video link.

Please ensure you have signed up to **only ONE** of the days.

This time we will be doing our face to face meetings a little differently- all the teachers will be in different areas of the hall and parents will wait in a seating area in the middle of the hall.

We are hoping that this will ensure that each appointment runs to time, so that you can be seen on time.

God Bless  
Have a lovely weekend  
Miss Mitchell

# HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th February 2024



Dear parents/carers,

We have reached the end of another exciting term at St Mary's Infant School. The children have been making remarkable progress and are all growing much more independent with their learning. They all deserve the half term rest, as do all the teachers who have worked hard planning and delivering exciting creative learning to the children.

## Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

As you know we have had a focus this week on the children's mental health and wellbeing. We have read stories about feelings and talked about how important it is to talk about our feelings.

We have read the Colour Monster (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBPFplfLvZ>)



and the children have been writing down how they are feeling each day and putting it into a jar



We have also read Ruby's Worry (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llS9Ang7cNg>) and talked about how important it is to tell someone when you are worried, nervous, anxious or scared and it will make you feel a little bit better.



I have also read these stories and put them on Seesaw for you to show your children.

## St Therese Class Liturgy

*I was lucky enough to start my Wednesday morning being invited to St Therese Liturgy. We talked about the people who are special to us and who help us. It was very touching to hear who is so special to the children and hear St Therese parents talk about why their child is so special to them.*

*The Bible story we heard 'The Presentation', taught us how Jesus was so special to Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna and how Jesus is the light of our lives and holds a special place in all our hearts.*

### Golden Table

I was very happy to be back with the children on the golden table this week. It is lovely to spend time with children who have such good table manners. This week I was joined by:

Katelyn in St Andrew Class

Alex in St George Class

Isabella in St Bernadette Class

Allana in St Therese Class

Leon in St Francis Class

Chase in St Martin Class

We had a wonderful conversation about our favourite foods and what we like to eat at home. For someone who loves talking about food it was lovely to hear of some of the wonderful things the children get to eat at home.



COMPASSION



*"The compassion of God, his suffering-with-us, gives meaning to our struggles and our sufferings"*

*Pope Francis*

*"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion"*

*St Vincent de Paul*

**Dear Lord, please increase our faith in your love and compassion, and give us the compassion and strength to help us to care for all those who are left out.**

**Amen**

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