

St. Mary's CE Primary
School

Head Teacher:
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TERM DATES
School Year 2021-22

Autumn Term

Half Term:
Monday 25th October to
Friday 29th October

Last day of Term:
Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term

INSET Day:
Tuesday 4th January
First day of Term:
Wednesday 5th January

Half Term:
Monday 14th February to
Friday 18th February 2022

Last day of Term:
Friday 1st April 2022

Summer Term

INSET Day:
Tuesday 19th April
First day of Term:
Wednesday 20th April

Bank Holiday:
Monday 2nd May 2022

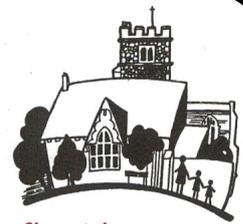
Half Term:
Monday 30th May to
Friday 3rd June

Last Day of Term:
Friday 22nd July

IN TOUCH

Friday 3rd December 2021

Issue 608



VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish
MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith
VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

It was wonderful to be able to bring children in KS1 and KS2 together for our annual Christmas tree assembly this morning. In this session, we celebrate the decorations we make and display on our Christmas trees. We turn all the lights off, sing 'Silent Night' and officially switch on the tree lights! We haven't been able to mark this tradition in two years and so it was great to be able to return to it this morning. We also shared the story of 'The Christmas Pine', which is the true story of the Norwegian Spruce gifted to the UK and displayed in Trafalgar Square. Our advent candles were lit and we opened two more doors on our whole school calendar—behind which are pictures which children across the school have carefully created. So far we have some sparkly Nursery stars, and fabulous silhouettes of the shepherds and their sheep from Year Five and of the Three Kings from Year Four... What will we uncover next week I wonder?... Please find attached the names of the children who received certificates in assembly and who have their decorations displayed on their class trees rather than in the hall. Children in Nursery and Reception will receive their certificates next week.

Speaking of trees—a huge thank you to FoSMS who have gifted us our beautiful Christmas trees at the front entrance to the school—accompanied by Christmas wreath—please see photos attached... You can purchase Christmas trees and wreaths at the Christmas Fair tomorrow. Information was sent home with In Touch last week.

The school has been a buzz with the excitement of our first face to face FoSMS event since the pandemic began. Fingers crossed that the British weather cooperates! If it doesn't then we will get out our 'Keep calm and carry on—we're St. Mary's' approach and will make the very most of the day. Huge thanks in advance to the FoSMS Committee and all of the volunteers who are setting up, manning and packing away stalls tomorrow—it is so good to be able to have a physical event at last and we could not do it without all of our wonderful parent/carers and extended family and friend volunteers—thank you all! I look forward to seeing you there!

I almost hate to say how lucky we have been so far in not having to put any part of our Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan (OMP) into action. Should this continue then we will be able to go ahead with the Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church. The nativity will be performed by children in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two and we are inviting two parent/carers who have children in those classes to come and see the performance. KS2 will be viewing a rehearsal in school and will not be going over to the Church for the service—they will produce our end of year production during the summer term. **The decision as to whether to proceed with the nativity will be based, and will be solely based, on whether we have had to put our OMP into action. If the plan is actioned then we will take advice from local health teams on which restrictions we will need to put into place.**

The DfE have issued guidance this week which means staff are back to wearing masks when moving around in communal spaces. Hopefully that is the only mitigation we will need to put into place before the end of term. We are so grateful for the continued vigilance around Covid-19 and the care that parent/carers have taken to ensure children are well before they come into school. Please see attached letter from Public Health.

If there is anyone out there who would like to volunteer to support our children in Early Years, we would be very grateful to hear from them. Our volunteers in school policy does not permit parent/carers to regularly volunteer in classes in which they have children. If there is anyone out there who is thinking of training to work in a school—this would be a great opportunity for you. Please contact Miss Payne in the first instance if you are interested.

A few final reminders before I sign off this evening... Please can parent/carers ensure that the pavements and the area in front of the school gates at pick up and drop off are clear so that members of the public can get by. Thank you to all who queue patiently at pick up and drop off—it is greatly appreciated.

Finally—a reminder that school will finish at 2.30pm on the final day of term—Friday 17th December—when we will all be taking home an Autumn edition of St. Mary's News home with us. Next week will be the final In Touch before we break up for Christmas.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the fair tomorrow! With very best wishes,
Cheryl Payne
Head Teacher

**Whole School Attendance
2021 -22**

Week beginning	Percentage
Autumn 1	95.7%
01/11	95.3%
08/11	96.3%
15/11	95.2%
22/11	94.5%
29/11	96.7%
06/12	
13/12	
Total:	95.7%

Family Points

