

St. Mary's CE Primary School

Head Teacher:

Miss Cheryl Payne

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### TERM DATES

School Year 2022-23

#### Autumn Term

Half Term:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Last day of Term:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

#### Spring Term

INSET Day:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

First day of Term:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Half Term:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### Summer Term

INSET Day:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

First day of Term:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Bank Holiday:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Half Term:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Last Day of Term:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

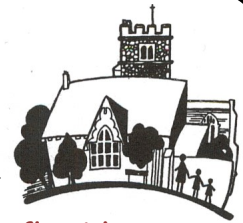
INSET Day:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

# IN TOUCH

Friday 2nd December 2022

Issue 644



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

Thank you FoSMS for our beautiful Christmas Trees! This morning we gathered for a special Celebration Worship where we switched on the Christmas tree lights in the dark and sang Silent Night. It's a St. Mary's tradition that began long before I started at the school and the children still enjoy it today—even asking to switch off the lights when we practised singing Silent Night in praise worship! This morning we celebrated the craft skills of some of our pupils as we awarded certificates for the best Christmas Tree Decorations! The children who have a certificate display their decorations on the class tree, whilst all other decorations adorn the tree in the Hall. All of the children also have a bauble with their name on it on the tree outside of the office. If they keep all of their baubles and handmade decorations as they go through the school then children will have their own set of Christmas tree decorations for when they have their first Christmas tree of their own!

This morning we thought about what the Christmas story—the greatest story ever told—means for us. We watched the M&S Christmas advertisement and concluded that God wants us to be just like Jesus who set an example of compassion and that is what Christmas is really all about—as M&S reminded us—to spend it well! Other supermarkets are available...

We have started to open our Advent Calendar which is full of the children's artwork. So far we have some lovely stars from Nursery and ...My thanks to Miss Donlon and Miss Ford for constructing our calendar this year! Also making an appearance in school this week are the Christmas elves and it looks like they are going to be just as mischievous as they have been in previous years!

This morning we were joined by parents and carers, but also members of the school's governing board who were taking part in the first governing working morning. Governors are preparing for the next formal inspection of the school which will be a SIAMS Inspection or Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. A new framework for inspection has just been issued and will be in place from September 2023. The SIAMS framework judges whether the school is an effective Church School and looks at whether the school's vision is fit for its context and how Collective Worship and the teaching and learning of Religious Education (RE), as well as the curriculum in its entirety contribute to whether or not pupils are receiving an effective Anglican education. Governors joined us for worship, watched the teaching and learning of RE and had an opportunity to talk to pupils in the classroom, look at pupils work and discuss what the areas for development in light of this framework might be.

It was lovely to have our Reception children join us for their first Celebration Worship session this morning. Both our Nursery and Reception children have done a great job of settling into school life this term and we look forward to welcoming some new children to Nursery in January.

It's been a very busy week in school. Parents were in school for a Learn to Love to Read Workshop—thanks to Mrs Davidson for organising, The Police came in to speak with children in Key Stage Two—they will be back to speak to our younger children in the Spring; Reverend's John and Jane led worship on Wednesday, Teachers spoke with parents in our Autumn Term parent meetings, Year Three went to Butser Ancient Farm on Thursday and the Resources Committee of the Governing Board met on Thursday night. This afternoon the School Council met... and after school was the last KS2 Choir Club before Christmas! Phew!

To top off a busy week—we celebrate Christmas in style with our eagerly awaited FoSMS Christmas Fair from 11.30-3pm in the playground tomorrow. There are some great raffle prizes to be won—make sure you have your tickets. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

We'll all need a jolly good rest and a hot water bottle on Sunday before we come back for another busy week on Monday! Next week will be the last In Touch of 2022! Until then, have a great weekend, Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

### Whole School Attendance 2022-23

TARGET	97.0%
Autumn 1	95.6%
31/10	96.1%
07/11	93.6%
14/11	93.2%
21/11	92.8%
28/11	92.9%
05/12	
12/12	
Total:	94.9%

### Family Points

368

238

220

241