St. Mary's CE Primary School
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TERM DATES School Year 2023-24

Autumn Term
INSET Day: 4th and 5th Sept
First day of Term: 6th Sept
Half Term:
23rd Oct to 27th Oct
Last day of Term: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec
INSET Day: 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

Spring Term INSET Day: 8<sup>th</sup> Jan First day of Term: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 16<sup>th</sup> Feb Last day of Term: 28<sup>th</sup> Mar

Summer Term
INSET Day: 15<sup>th</sup> Apr
First day of Term: 16<sup>th</sup> Apr
Bank Holiday: 6th May
Half Term:
27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May
Last Day of Term:
24<sup>th</sup> Jul

School Attendance 23-24	
TARGET	97.0%
Autumn 1	96.7
Week Beginning	%
30/11	97.2
06/11	97.5
13/11	
20/11	
27/11	
04/12	
11/12	
Total:	96.8



## Family Points 509 571 582 508

## IN TOUCH

Friday 10th November 2023



Issue 674



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

One of our favourite events of the year returned this week in a new venue! A fantastically fun FoSMS Quiz Night was held at The Winchester Club who generously donated their space to us for the night. The table decoration quiz was closely contested with the 'Parents of the Caribbean' stealing the top prize of three points. Well done to the three teams that tied for first place! With teams donating generously to buy themselves out of hosting next year—the staff team volunteered to set the questions and lead in 2024!Thank you to Rochelle, Ruth and the entire FoSMS team for a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

This morning, we shared our totaliser for phase two of the playground development project. It was our first look at the total and it was great to see we have already exceeded a quarter of what is needed to go ahead with phase two! Please see the totaliser attached. We will share it at regular intervals to see how we are getting on. Please note the ways that we can all help and support the gargantuan fundraising effort and see if we can have phase two completed before the start of next academic year!

As always thanks to Ruth and Rochelle for their exciting vision and leadership of the fundraising for this exciting project and to all of the FoSMS team for their ongoing work!

Just a quick reminder for parents—please can you let us know if you are sending an unknown adult to pick up your children. Both class **and** office need to be informed, if this is the case. Please send a recent photograph to help us to recognise unfamiliar adults and contact details for them in case they are late. This will help staff to ensure all children go home safely with the correct adult! Thank you!

I know it's only November but Christmas preparations began in school this week. We thought it would be helpful to give you advance warning that we will again be holding an annual Christmas Jumper day on Wednesday 20th December—which is the last day of term for pupils. Given our current school development foci includes sustainability objectives we would like you to consider recycling an old Christmas Jumper, avoiding buying new, or instead thinking about how you could jazz up your school jumper using recycled materials. We are also asking you to donate to school office any old Christmas Jumpers which do not fit, so that we can recycle them amongst the school community. Family points will be awarded for recycling and ingenuity on the day! Any donations we receive will go to support the work of the British Red Cross.

Class Work Shares continued this week and were hosted in Years Three and Four. These have been well attended and feedback from parent/carers has been overwhelmingly positive. We hope you find these a wonderful way to share in what your children are working on at St. Mary's and thank you for making the time to come and see us. We look forward to welcoming more parent/carers into school for the remaining workshares over the next few weeks.

It was great to see Reverend Helena in school this week to lead worship. We have also been welcoming volunteers from the sixth form at Lady Margaret and look forward to welcoming a new group next week. We are very grateful to Reverend Helena for forging this partnership work!

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Looking ahead to next week, there will be a KS2 (Years Three to Six) Eucharist at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday morning from 9.45am. We invite parent/carers to join us at this service and thank John and the team in advance for inviting us to hold our communion services in the Church. Also next week, a reminder that Friday is Odd Socks day—all children are encouraged to wear odd socks to mark our first Anti-Bullying day of the year.

It's been a busy week here at St. Mary's—just the way we like it—but we hope you are all able to recharge your batteries over the next two days... From all of us here, we wish you a fun but restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday at the usual time! Very best wishes, Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher