



Dear Parents,

We have at last arrived at the end of the term and we have had a very busy last couple of weeks. Christmas in a Primary School is always a wonderful time as the excitement grows. A few of the highlights - the Key Stage 1 Nativity was lovely with all of the children performing brilliantly. The Key Stage 2 children sang so beautifully during the Carol Service and it felt a really spiritual occasion having moved it this year to the Church. The children really enjoyed the pantomime provided by our lovely and hardworking PTFA and we have just had a wonderful end of term mass altogether with parents and parishioners in the hall. As I write, the children are Christmas shopping, again organised by the PTFA.

We are of course saying goodbye to Mr Germscheid who leaves us today for a new adventure at Thorncombe Primary School, just over the border in Dorset. I am very grateful for the help and support he has given me over the last 4 terms and for everything he has done for St Mary's over the last 9 years. Mrs Glover is also leaving us today to take up a new post in January with the Acorn Academy. We send both Mr Germscheid and Mrs Glover our love, prayers and best wishes for their new roles.

Mr Brain will be joining Owl's class in January and has been into school this week to work with Mrs Perks and meet the children. Miss Wilson has also been into school today to meet with Mr Germscheid and Kestral class. We warmly welcome both to St Mary's and hope they enjoy their time with us.

It's been lovely this term to see the children thinking about other people. They are in the middle of the 'Camel Challenge' I set them this term to raise money for CAFOD. It's called the Camel Challenge because of the Bible reference 'It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God'. (Matthew 19:25). Two classes have organised their fund raising activities – Name Mrs Foley's baby and an Eagles Come Dancing competition. We are all waiting in anticipation to see what the other classes come up with. We took a retiring collection for CAFOD at the end of our Carol Service and I was really touched the next morning when Ella and Emily brought me a bag of spare change they had got together to donate to CAFOD. It was very thoughtful of them and really reflected the true meaning of Christmas.

You should have received a copy of the revised school dates list for the spring and summer term. I have also added the term dates for 2016/17 in case you are thinking about booking holidays. Please ensure that when you or a family member books, that you are not booking days off during term time.

Many thanks to everyone – staff, children, governors, parents and parishioners – who have helped and supported us at St Mary's in any way, big or small. You are all a really important part of our school and we thank you sincerely for everything you do.

Car Parking

Unfortunately, we have received complaints from local residents about parents parking inconsiderately at the old police station in Lyme Road. Residents have complained that some parents are parking in their driveways. Could I please remind you to park with consideration for the people who live locally. I have asked our local PCSO to take a look at the situation.

Also, one resident's car was hit yesterday by one of our parents but they did not stop or exchange insurance details. There is CCTV footage of the incident, however if you think you may have been involved or may have seen the incident, please let Mrs Brett, Mrs Newcombe or myself know.

Dates reminder

Monday 4 January – Staff return to school (INSET). School closed to children

Tuesday 5 January – Children return to school



Admission to Primary School 2016/2017

On 15 November, the online application facility will open for children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 for entry to Reception class in September 2016. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2016. Please go to www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Situations Vacant

Our Governing Body is looking to appoint a Clerk to take up post as soon as possible to provide administrative and secretarial support for committee and Governing Body meetings for approximately 300 hours per academic year.

For more information please speak to Mrs Newcombe or Mrs Brett.

Special Person

Robins

Woodpeckers

Owls

Kestrels

Eagles

w/e11/12

Freddie D

Grace F

Reece B

Louis N

Olivia W



Attendance

Week ending 11 December 96.61%

Week ending 18 December 93.98%

Our attendance target is **96.2%**



Have a happy and holy Christmas.

Angela Herrera

Mrs Angela Herrera
Headteacher

Living, loving and learning with God