

St. Mary's Mail



Date: 12th November 2021 Issue 5 Bi- Weekly News from St. Mary's

Dates For Your Diary

We've had an exciting start to the new term with week Y3/4 went on a trip to the New Rooms in Bristol and a mufti in preparation for the Christmas fayre. Next week we will be kicking off Anti-bullying with Odd Socks day on Monday and ending the week with a Children in Need Fundraiser where children can wear yellow, spots, merchandise or Pyjamas to school for a donation to our just [giving page](#) or bring in £1 on the day.

We are hopeful that we will be able to run some of our festive activities towards the end of the term so please put these dates in your diary but we ask for your understanding if we have to make any last minute changes owing to the ongoing pandemic.

Bethan Scriven

A Message on this term's Value

Rev. Ian Wallace

Friendship

A few months ago, I linked up with my best friend from primary school after a separation of almost 50 years. His family had moved away from the town where I grew up and we gradually lost touch. What was so wonderful about our reunion was to discover that, even after all that time, our friendship was still alive and important to both of us and provided the groundwork upon which we were able to catch up with all those missing years.

As I reflected on that experience I came to realise how important are friendships are for our understanding of ourselves and realising the potential that God has implanted within us. The friendships that we develop, particularly at primary school, give us the confidence to engage with the world and to grow in wisdom and knowledge, so I consider them an essential part of the context for education.

This term in our assemblies we are exploring the value of friendship. The Bible speaks of many key friendships which have shaped the course of human history, not least the friendship between Jesus and his disciples. It also teaches us that friendship is not just about the good times but also involves standing with one another when times are tough. My hope is that the assemblies will enable us all to value friendships even more.

w/c 15th Nov	Anti-bullying week
15th November	Odd Socks Day
19th November	Children in Need
22nd November	INSET day
6th December	Lime Nativity
7th December	Lemon Nativity
13th December	8:30am Santa Visit
13th December	Christmas Dinner
14th December	Cherry Nativity
15th December	Apple Nativity
16th December	Pear Nativity
16th December	Christingle Service

Attendance

School attendance is currently 96% which is slightly below our school target. It is inevitable that there is more absences owing to illness at this time of year but we are also seeing a slight increase in unauthorised absence.

Any unauthorised time from school for a period of more than 5 days may result in a penalty notice issued by the local authority. Please do not book holidays during term time we can not authorise them. The admission policy and a parents guide to penalty notices can be found on the school website.

Well done to year 5 who continue to lead the way in terms of attendance with Reception close behind, both with attendance above 97%. Year 2 are still the most punctual year group.

Tesco Community Grant

Thank you for all support over the summer collecting blue Tesco tokens, we are pleased to announce we won the vote and have been awarded £1,500 towards developing outside social areas.

Toys and Mobile Phones

Could we please ask that children do not bring toys into school. If it is felt as though a child would benefit from using a fidget toy during lessons, your child's teacher or our SENDCO, Mrs Lane will speak to you directly.

Children should only have a mobile phone in school if they are walking to or from school independently and you have agreed that this is part of a safety measure.

As we ask that children younger than Y6 are always accompanied by an adult, only Y6 children should have phones.

We would highly recommend that wherever possible, phones are left at home. However, if they are brought to school they must be handed to their teacher at the start of the day for safe keeping.

Excel Daily!

We continue to have our celebration assemblies every Friday. Well done to the following children who have recently received certificates:

Leo H, Hope P, Charlie D, Maria G, Bella G, Kaiden M-E, Edward C, Tilly F, Dakota Z-C, Edith S, Benny T, Edward C, Olivia D, Samaya P, Summer B-C, Noah H, Amelia E, Jacob M, Oliver H, Hugh S, Aniah W-G, Anya L-C, Megan R, Riley H, Jack L, Ava S, Levi B, Darcey O, Charlotte B, Lydia W, Louis P, Edward G, Mason W, Molly M, Willow H, Holly S, Alfie T, Tyler O'B, Frankie N, Harper L, Max R, Teddy H, Olivia Em, Laila F, Sophie A, Harrison F & Joseph H.



2021/22 Term Dates

Term 2: 1st Nov—17th Dec 2021
Term 3: 4th Jan—18th Feb 2022
Term 4: 28th Feb—8th April 2022
Term 5: 25th Apr—27th May 2022
Term 6: 6th June— 21st July 2022
INSET Days: 22nd Nov 2021, 14th March 2022 & 27th May 2022

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We are very lucky at St Mary's to have such a supportive community around us and The Friends of St. Mary's are at the centre of this. In the past they have organised some amazing events such as the Christmas Fair, 5k fun run, Tuckfield football tournament, school disco's, quizzes, scarecrow trails to name but a few, all of which have raised valuable funds that have enriched the education of all the children at the school.

Meet the committee

This years committee as voted for at the AGM are:

Co-Chair: Leanne Woodruff (Year 2 parent)

Co-Chair: Danielle Base (Year 3 parent)

Co-Vice Chair: Julie Hope (Year 2 parent)

Co- Vice Chair: Liz Baker (Year 5 parent)

Secretary: Sarah Seymour (Year 2 & 3 parent)

Treasurer: James Gay (Reception, Year 3 & 4 parent)

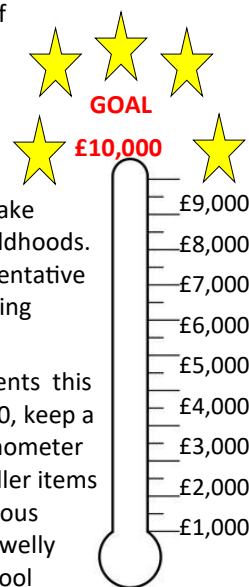
Although these are set roles, the Friends are made up of many, many parents who all give up their time to help events and they welcome everyone to come and join in.

Please feel free to pop along to a meeting or say hi to any of the committee on the school playground to find out how you can help and become involved.

2021/22 Fundraising

This academic year the Friends have set a target of £10,000 to raise in order to purchase a high rise climbing frame for all the children to enjoy. This climbing frame will be part of a larger play project the school have planned to improve play and the outdoor environment around the school. The school are working in conjunction with OPAL to make playtimes even better and to encourage active childhoods. Richard Harris (Year 3 parent) is the parent representative working with the school on the OPAL project keeping the Friends involved.

85% of all income from the Friends fundraising events this year will go towards this amazing target of £10,000, keep a look out for the progress on our fundraising thermometer in school. The remaining 15% will be used for smaller items the school may require throughout the year, previous purchases the Friends have funded have included welly boot storage stands, picnic tables, coaches for school trips, pantomimes, contributions to building works, prizes for reading challenges and lots, lots more. Every penny donated has a huge impact on school resources.



Christmas Fair: Saturday 27th November

12-3pm

The first of the Friends fundraising events is the welcome return of the Christmas fair. We would love you all to come along and enjoy coffee & cakes, BBQ, crafts, games, raffle, tombola, performances by the school choir & local dance troops, come and meet the real life Naughty Elf and lots, lots more Christmas fun.

In order to make it a success we need a little help from you:

Raffle Prizes – to school by Friday 19th November

We would welcome any donations of raffle prizes, if you would like to donate a prize or know any companies/shops that may like to donate could all prizes be handed into the school office between Monday 15th and Friday 19th November.

Jolly Jars – to school by Friday 19th November

The Jolly Jars stall is always a great fundraiser and very popular with the children, we would love to see your creations be it glass jars, plastic bottles or cups filled with sweets. Please hand your jars into the school office between Monday 15th and Friday 19th November.

Cakes—to school on Friday 26th or Saturday 27th November

We require home baked cakes, biscuits, cookies, goods for the cake stall, please ensure they are nut free and deliver them to school on Friday 26th or Saturday 27th November.

Volunteers to run stalls

We also need helpers on the day, if you can spare 30 minutes to help run a stall please see your parent rep or let the office know who can pass your details onto the Friends.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



What is it?

The United Nations' 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and abuse is an annual international campaign. It takes place from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10th December (International Human Rights Day)

Throughout the campaign Mothers' Union joins with over 6,000 organisations from approx 187 countries to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence and abuse in all its forms and in all societies.

GBV can affect any person at any time and statistics demonstrate that women and girls are particularly at risk. Every day of the year, Mothers' Union works alongside communities to help end domestic abuse and gender-based violence and to support those affected by it. For these 16 days we focus on women and girls, recognising the value of women and men reflecting, praying, and acting together to call for an end to violence in all its forms.

Domestic abuse can include, but is not limited to, the following:

Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence) Psychological and/or emotional abuse, Physical or sexual abuse, Financial or economic abuse, Spiritual abuse, Harassment and stalking, Online or digital abuse.

Global Day of Action

This year Mothers' Union in Yate will have a presence in Yate Shopping Centre between 12.45pm and 13.45pm with a 3 minute silence at 13.03, reflecting on the harrowing statistic that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience domestic abuse. Mothers' Union as an organisation believe this to be unacceptable. You will be welcome to join us; we will be wearing purple scarves and badges and carrying placards.

Every day throughout this period we will be praying for victims, children, the disabled, elderly people, safe places, trafficking, FGM, child marriages and that love and peace may prevail.

National UK Domestic Abuse Helpline

Free helpline, 24/7.
Online Live chat support and British Sign Language options.
0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327
Next Link South Gloucestershire Council
0800 0280

www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk

SARSAS Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support
Number 0808 8010456
Email: support@sarsas.org.uk

ANI Victims of Domestic Abuse can access immediate help from police or pharmacy by asking for ANI (code for Action needed immediately)

Practical Support-Survivor's Handbook
www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

Luke 10 27



'Be still and know that I am God'

Psalm 46:10