



Dear Parents and Carers

The last newsletter of 2016. What a year! For many we could have gone to bed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and woken up on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2107 and quite happily missed out 2016. For others this has been a wonderful life changing year. We have said cheerio (goodbye sounds too final) to some fantastic staff and hello to great additions to our team. We have also said farewell to some families as the youngest child has left our school in the summer and we have said a huge welcome to new families. Some of our families have themselves said hello to new members who we hope will join the family here at St Mary's in a few years.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Pratt our fantastic PSA, who with her family is returning to Australia, she will be greatly missed but has been able to do a handover to Mrs Liz Kengyelics (pronounced Keng Yelitch) who flies solo after Christmas. We wish her and her family all the very best and a safe journey home. Y6 are sad to say goodbye to Mr Addinall; who has been with the class since Easter. Everyone at St Mary's wishes him good luck as he finishes his last day with us today.

In 30 years of being involved in education this has been one of the hardest terms I have experienced. The staff would like to say a huge Thank You for the support you have provided ourselves and your children. It makes such a difference to everyone when we have these strong relationships between home, school and in our case the parish.

#### **Parental Controls**

Many children will be getting new electronic toys and gadgets over Christmas – and it important to help them use them safely.

The best way of protecting children is to play alongside them and help them learn safely, but setting up Parental Controls on new devices will provide additional safety. This website provides guidance on how to set this up on a wide range of devices.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/>

As we end the term I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year, and say a huge thank you for all the support over this term. I hope those of you who have attended our performances this week have thoroughly enjoyed them.

Finally just a reminder that pupils return to school on

**Tuesday 3rd January**

at 8.55 am (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January is a Bank Holiday).

Thank you and have a holy and peaceful Christmas.