



Update Friday 18th December 2020
Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Osborne

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of an 'interesting' term, and on behalf of the whole St Mary's team, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you for your continued support and understanding. At times it has felt like the end of term would never come, but it has and your children have surpassed all of our expectations with their resilience and enthusiasm for school life. St Mary's might not be as it was, but the whole school community has embraced the 'new normal' facing all challenges with a smile on their face and resilience. Now is the time to take stock of all we have achieved over the past few months and to sit back, relax and enjoy well-earned family time.

My home is full of happiness

My home is full of happiness
My stockings filled with treats
My Christmas tree has twinkly lights
Mum's cooking us a feast
My church is full of singing
My heart is full of joy
My nativity has the last piece
A little baby boy.

My bible tells me of his life
My mind is filled with tales
My prayer is full of thankfulness
Because on this very day -
The son of God came down to earth
To teach us right from wrong,
And spread forgiveness through the world
Today true love was born.

And so we celebrate this day
With presents, trees and lights
We play fun games with loved ones
And eat food that's really nice
For this day is the birthday of
A precious little boy,
Sent to save the world forever
Sent to bring us joy.

Wonderful Writing:



Did you know that there are two types of rainforest? Or that the narwhale is also known as the 'unicorn of the sea'? These and other fascinating facts can be found in Year 5's fabulous habitat survival guides that they have been working on over the past few weeks. Great examples of teamwork and extremely useful information.

Goodbye to Mrs Brown



Today we said 'goodbye' to the lovely Mrs Brown as she embarks on ventures new. Mrs Brown has been an amazing asset to the St Mary's team and her Forest School legacy will live on.

Hello to Mrs Bishop

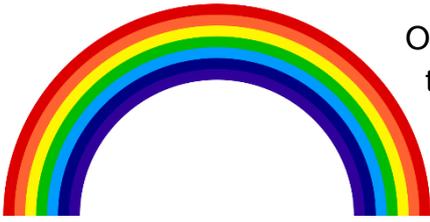
In January we will be welcoming Mrs Lauren Bishop to St Mary's as our new Nursery Teacher. Welcome to the St Mary's family Mrs Bishop.

British Legion Poppy Appeal:



I am delighted to be able to tell you that St Mary's raised £299 for this year's Poppy Appeal.

Rainbow Tea Party:



On Wednesday I had the pleasure of hosting not one but two Rainbow Tea Parties. The children who have 'reached the rainbow' have all shown exceptional behaviour/attitude to learning and it's a lovely opportunity for me to spend time with your children.

This term's party goers were:

Yr 1: Ruby, Mollie, Grace, Klarisa, Wilf, Charlie, Mimi, Sutton, Hendrix, Isabelle, Niamh, Milo, Jack, Henry and Iona

Yr 3: Harriet and Eliza

Yr 4: Daniel and Jessica

Yr 5: Lex, Milo and Amelie

Yr 6: Lucas

A special mention to: Lucas, Grace, Wilf and Jack who all managed to reach the rainbow more than once – exceptional!



House points are awarded in class for effort, resilience, perseverance and kindness. In addition, the School Council have been busy organising competitive house events (despite bubble restrictions). This term there's been the Christmas Star Competition and Santa Jog. On Tuesday our winning house shared an extra playtime (in their bubbles) and next year we'll be holding many more events. This term's winners in a hard fought battle were Air, congratulations!

Air: 240 Earth: 237 Water: 189 Fire:185

Great big thank yous!



The whole school community enjoyed a delicious ice-cream treat yesterday, thanks to Mario (Chris and Evie's dad) who owns Mario's in Berkhamsted. If you get a chance, do pop into his café.

Ruth at Loxo Creative has produced two exceptional videos for us during the past half-term, enabling us to share school events with the whole school community.

Santa's Sleigh

Last week the School Association took part in the Rotary Club's annual Santa's Sleigh appeal and have asked me to include this message from the organisers:

The sleigh has been very well received this year and the funds we have raised so far have been astonishing. We have been blown away by the money which has been given to us with record numbers being received.

The main driver for the committee to ensure the event happened this year, as well as looking for some normality, was to honour the memory of Matthew Minors who died on 29 March due to Covid. He has been sorely missed this year.

I know it's been a very difficult year for charities this year so it would be great to exceed our initial expectations and a great way to recognise what Matthew did in the local community.

Many thanks for your support and your teams who have volunteered this year.

www.berkorotary.org

Message from Chair of Governors, Owen Lewis

As we reach the end of term, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you all for your support through this very unusual time for the school. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, I'm really impressed with how the children, staff and the whole school community has risen to the occasion. Hopefully life will return to 'normal' soon, but in the meantime the governing board and staff remain committed to providing the best possible education for your children.

The governing board is a group of volunteers who support the strategic direction of the school, hold school leadership to account for education and staff performance, and oversee the school's financial performance. If you would be interested in becoming a governor or would like more information, please contact me at olewis@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk. For those that are able to commit a small amount of time each week, it is a very rewarding role and an opportunity to support your local school. I'd be particularly interested to hear from anyone with a finance/accounting or HR background.

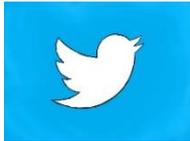
On behalf of the governing board, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a healthy (and hopefully less eventful!) 2021.

Social media – keep in the loop



Keep up to date with all the latest school news via our social media platforms.

StMarys916



A final note:

On behalf of the staff and governors of St Mary's School I would like to wish you all a

