



# St Mary's C of E Primary School 'Shining Brighter and Brighter'

November 2023 Update  
Head Teacher Mrs Lynne Osborne

Dear parents,

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at St Mary's; we have all thoroughly enjoyed our annual 'decorations day'. As we head into the long weekend, just a flavour of some of the things we have been doing in school and the many exciting events to come.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at Saturday's Christmas Fair.

Mrs Osborne and the staff team.

## **O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree**



The school hall smells beautiful today, with the scent of fresh pine everywhere.

This is what our wonderful Christmas tree (donated by Christmas Tree Place, Berkhamsted and organised by St Mary's School Association) looked like once the children in Nursery and Reception had hung their decorations. It looks a lot busier now!

## **A thank you from Hope Food Bank**

I just wanted to say a really HUGE thank you for donating your Harvest Festival items to The Hope Food Bank @ Kings Road Church. Please do pass on my grateful thanks to your staff, pupils and their families for their incredible generosity in supporting those in food poverty across Berkhamsted.

An amazing NINE Berkhamsted Schools and one nursery collaborated with us this year and we collected an incredible total of £3,500 worth of food!

So, thank you again for playing your part in helping us to help those in need in our community.

**Samantha Sutherland, Hope Food Bank Manager**

### **Welcome to new families**

This term we have had several new families join us, welcome to the St Mary's family. I am delighted to tell you that our number of children on roll is currently 217. This is the largest number of children for several years, so thank you to all of you who have spread the St Mary's word. A polite reminder, applications for September 2024 Reception places must be made by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **The Christmas Story**

The children have been busy creating their hall displays, which retell the Christmas story. Nursery's display introduces two of the most important people, Mary and Joseph.



### **Christmas Jumper Day**



On Wednesday 13th December, we will enjoy our annual Christmas lunch and wear our Christmas jumpers (again). The Hospice of St Francis does excellent work providing support for people suffering from terminal illness and we will use this day as a way to fundraise for this excellent cause. Please give generously via either Arbor or a cash donation on the day.

## **Gates**

In the morning, the three sets of school gates are open from 08.30-08.50. At 08.50, I aim to close the gates making the school grounds secure and enabling staff to begin teaching. If you arrive after 08.50 please go to the school office, even if the gates are still open. This just means that the school is secure and I can get on with the many emails that await! EYFS parents, if the gate is locked please, please do not lift your child over the gate. Many thanks for your co-operation.

## **Arbor payments**

A plea, please remember to make all payments promptly and to contact the office should you have difficulty finding/making payments. The office staff spend a lot of time following up late payments-please do not wait to be chased.

## **Nut free school**

Please remember that there are several children with allergies in the school and nuts of any kind can be potentially fatal. We strive to be a nut-free school. Please do not include: nutella, pesto, Kinder items or nuts of any kind in your child's lunchbox/snack please.

## **Spread the word**

Keep in the loop with what's happening here at school by following us on Facebook, and Instagram

## **@St Marys916**

If you like what's going on please write a FaceBook review too – let's spread the St Mary's word!

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Occasional Day
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Piano Concert 9.10
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Mince Pie and Mingle 09.30-10.30
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady Concert 14.00
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Dress rehearsal 09.30
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas 'nativity' 6.30pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day and Christmas lunch
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Guitar and Drama Group Assembly 09.10</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert St Mary's Church 7pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Elfridges (SA)
	<b>Music Assembly 13.30 -14.30</b>
	Cold Carols at 14.40 in playground
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Cinderella performance in school
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle (children only) 1.30pm end of term

**Thursday 4th January**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February break up at 15.20 for half-term holiday

**Back to School**

Prospective parent Tour 09.30

Reception applications for 2024 close

ELSA Diabetes testing Day 2 (additional date)

Prospective Nursery parents tour 09.30

FEELING GOOD WEEK

Parent Consultation evening

Parent Consultation evening

Prospective Nursery parents tour 09.30