



# St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 40



Dear Families,

*It's been another busy week at St. Mary's with lots of excitement today as the Advent Elves have returned to help the children countdown to Christmas. I wonder what mischief the elves will get up to this year?! A huge well done to Sycamore Class who beautifully led worship on Friday telling us about Advent and how it is a time for us to prepare for the birth of baby Jesus. We still have a couple of Advent calendars left following the generous donation we received. If you would like one at home, please do let either myself or Mrs Johnson know.*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
SIAMS Good

*On Thursday, Oak and Silver Birch had a fun filled educational visit to Wonderland in Telford. Although it was a chilly day the children behaved wonderfully and enjoyed linking their learning of traditional tales to real life experiences.*

*This week we are saying goodbye to one of our much-loved members of the St Mary's team. Mrs Rock has decided to spend more time with her family and friends so has stepped down from her lunch time supervisor and play leader role. Mrs Rock has been at St Mary's for many years and will be dearly missed. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best in her future.*



*You may have also heard the news that, in February 2024, Reverend Rachel will be leaving her post here at the Watershed Benefice and will be moving to North Wales to serve in the parishes of Rhos on Sea and Llandrillo yn Rhos. We keep both Reverend Rachel's current and new parishes in our prayers during this time of change.*

*Have a wonderful weekend,*



Mrs. N R Brennan  
Head Of School

## **Book Look**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 all parents welcome from 2:45pm to 3:15pm.**

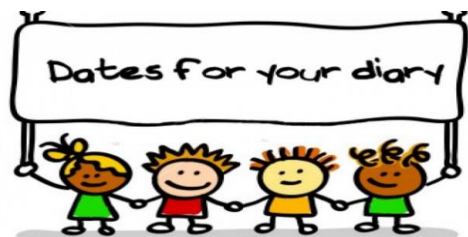


## **Rocksteady Concert**

**All parents welcome from 2:30pm to 3pm**

## **Christmas Jumper day**

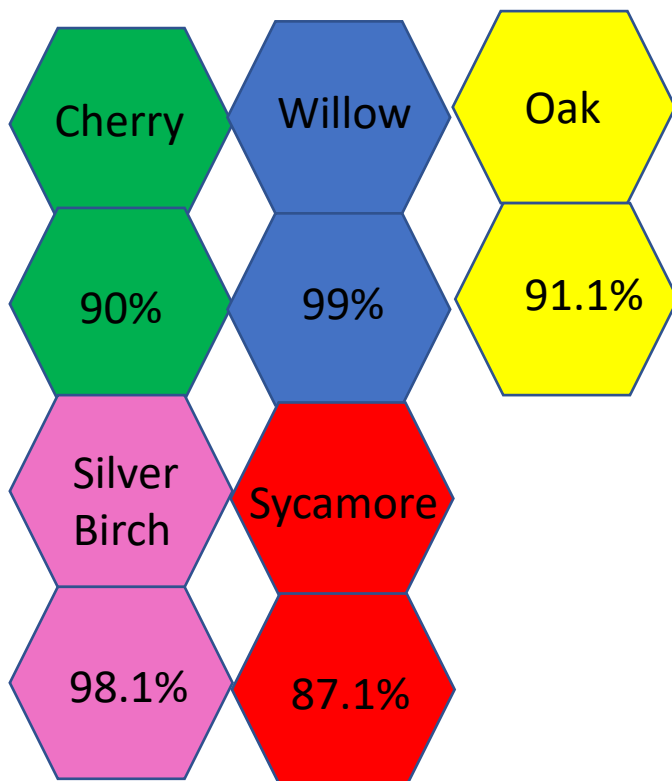
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 all children to wear Christmas jumpers with a £1.00 donation.**



## Attendance Matters



5 <sup>th</sup> December	Book look parents welcome 2:45pm – 3:15pm
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady concert 2:30pm – 3pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day £1 donation.
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity, 2pm start
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity, 2pm start
13 <sup>th</sup> December	SEND Coffee morning 9am–9:30am
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior cadets' year 4
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch for children
15 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA School disco – Information to follow.
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Concert KS2, 2pm start
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior Cadets' Year 4 award ceremony
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Let's Read Together 2:45pm
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Church Service – Information to follow
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Highway Safety for year 1 & 2
30 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Parent consultations – Information to follow.



Congratulations to all our classes who have reached our government's expectation of 96% or above..

★ **Star of the week** ★

Class	Pupil
Cherry	Max
Willow	Olivia T
Oak	Billy
Silver Birch	Rubie
Sycamore	Jack

A massive well done to all children for all their hard work this week. We are proud to call you a part of our St Mary's Family

# Free School Meals

Are you entitled?



Are you entitled to Free school meals, please use the link below.  
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



WEEK 3

Allergy information available on request

13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 18th Mar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Main</b>				
Ratatouille Pasta Bake (v)	Meat Feast Pizza	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Gyros	Fish and Chips
<b>Vegetarian</b>				
Korean Cauliflower with Rice (v)	Potato and Bean Calzone (v)	Vegetable Curry with Bombay Potatoes (v)	Barley and Vegetable Risotto (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with Chips (v)
<b>3rd Options</b>				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Salmon Mayo or Coleslaw
<b>Deli</b>				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese				
<b>Vegetables</b>				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
<b>Dessert</b>				
Sticky Orange Cake	Oat Fruit Slice	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Cinnamon Fruit Pudding	Chocolate Mousse
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt



Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.





Oak and Silver Birch

# Christmas Wonderland

Trip





# ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

### 1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the chance to discuss what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:  
\*\*\*\*\*

### 6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

### 2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your child uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

### 7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safe for children. Always check the mini age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

### 3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which breaks certain times of the day when they go without devices.

### 8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for devices won't be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

### 4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're talking them.

### 9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

### 5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them, so they see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

### 10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement, dance using apps along to songs your child loves, and follow step-by-step cooking videos.

### Meet Our Expert

Veronica M. Smith is a professional development and IT coordinator at an outstanding nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 10 years.



**NOS** National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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