



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 42



Dear Families,

What an amazing week we've had at St Mary's! I am so proud of our youngest children who performed amazingly in the nativity play this week. Cherry, Oak, Willow and Silver Birch shone like stars as they retold the story of Christmas. Thank you so much to everyone who came to support the children and those who helped with learning lines and providing costumes.

As we approach the end of term, we have some staffing changes and goodbyes to say. Mrs Handley will be taking up her teaching position at Brewood Middle Academy in January where she will be teaching Year 6 and leading the whole school for both Art and PSHE. We know Mrs Handley will continue to shine at Brewood as she has done here at St Mary's. Mrs Latham will be stepping down from her role as Senior Lunchtime Supervisor at the end of term. Mrs Latham will continue to lead our cleaning team after the children have gone home each day. Mrs Latham has been such a valued member of our academy family she will be greatly missed by both children and staff alike. Mrs Mather, who has been with us on a supply contract since the Summer term last year, has decided to enjoy an early retirement from the end of the term. She is eagerly awaiting spending more time with her family in her Spanish home. Mrs Mather has been an invaluable member of the St Mary's team and will be greatly missed.

Next week we continue our Christmas celebrations with Sycamore's Christmas Carol concert, our church service and class parties all due to take place. On Thursday, as we walk to church, please can we ask for as many volunteers to help as possible. We will register the children then aim to leave at approximately 9.15am.

Have a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs. N R Brennan
Head Of School*



Carol Concert KS2

Tuesday 19th December, Sycamore families' welcome.

Junior Cadets'

Year 4 award Ceremony, 10am all year 4 families' welcome.

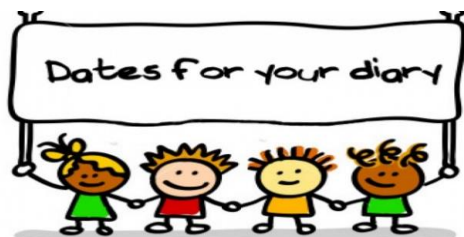


Let's Read Together

All families welcome to come and read with their children from 2:45pm

Church Service

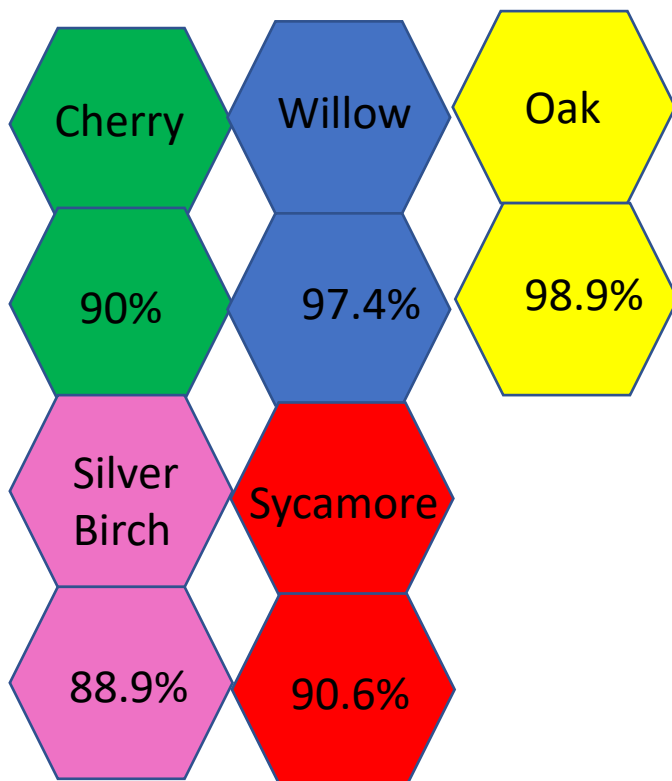
Thursday 21st December Church service at St Mary's church, If you do not want your child to walk to church, please contact Mrs. Johnson in the school office.



Attendance Matters



19 th December	Carol Concert KS2, 2pm start
20 th December	Junior Cadets' Year 4 award ceremony, 10am start
20 th December	Let's Read Together 2:45pm
21 st December	Church Service Children to leave St Mary's at 9:15am
Monday 8 th January	Inset day - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 9 th January	All children welcome back!
17 th January	Highway Safety for year 1 & 2
18 th January	Rock Steady Concert 2:30pm all families' welcome
30 th and 31 st January	Parent consultations - Information to follow.
6 th February	Safer internet day
7 th February	SEND Coffee morning
9 th February	Chinese New Year
4 th March	Mother's day lunch - Cherry, Willow and Oak Information to follow.
5 th March	Mother's day lunch - Silver Birch and Sycamore 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	Edith
Willow	Loxley
Oak	Linkon
Silver Birch	Harry D
Sycamore	Betsie

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 2

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Pork Sausage and Mashed Potatoes	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Mild Chickpea Coconut Curry with Rice (v)	Vegan Sausage and Mashed Potatoes (v)	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Veggie Curry with Rice (v)	Cheese Toastie and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
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, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese				
Vegetables				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert				
Vegan Sweet Potato and Ginger Cake	Fruit Shortbread	Cinnamon Toast Bake	Vegan Chocolate Brownie	Fruit Jelly
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.

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec, 8th Jan, 29th Jan, 19th Feb, 11th Mar

Afterschool Club

At St Marys CE First Academy



Course runs Mondays & Tuesdays 3:15pm - 4:30pm on:
15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th January
5th, 6th February
This course is open to all pupils

To book on to one of our courses, follow the simple steps below! Any queries contact Sarah 07816540275
£ 4.00 per session

1. Please visit www.sportscoolwolves.schoolipal.co.uk
2. Log in to your account (first time users will need to register and provide the required details).
3. Select the School, followed by the club you wish to book for.
4. Select which child/ren you wish to attend.
5. Select proceed to payment
6. Select make full payment
7. Your child is booked on the course

We look forward to seeing you!

SportsCool are responsible for the safety and care of your child and are insured for all risks. However, SportsCool does not accept responsibility for loss or damage to your child's property. All SportsCool coaches have enhanced DBS clearance.

FREE

Winter Holiday Club



FREE for children eligible for
Free School Meals benefit

**Brewood community HUB, 51 Deansfield Road,
Brewood, Staffordshire, ST19 9HT.**

**2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th January
Tuesday- Friday**

**10am-
2pm**

**Age 5-
13**

**Contact Sarah on 07816 540275 for
paid option (£10)**

**GLOW IN THE DARK
DODGEBALL**

ARCHERY

TABLE TENNIS

YOGA

FOOTBALL

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Please book now to guarantee your place:

To book on to one of our clubs, follow the simple steps below!

1. first register on the south Staffordshire HAF website and then Please visit www.sportscoolwolves.schoolipal.co.uk
2. Log in to your account (first time users will need to register and provide the required details).
3. Select the holiday club you wish to book for.
4. Select which child/ren you wish to attend.
6. Once completed you will be fully booked onto the course.

ARTS & CRAFTS

VOLEYBALL

AND MUCH MORE!!

MULTI SPORTS

FORTNITE FUN

FREE

Winter Holiday Club



FREE for children eligible for
Free School Meals benefit

**Bilbrook village hall, Joeys lane, Codsall,
Wolverhampton WV8 1JL.**

**12pm-
4pm**

**2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th January
Tuesday- Friday**

**Age 5-
13**

**Contact Sarah on 07816 540275 for
paid option (£10)**

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FORTNITE FUN

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing these risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Look when most games were bought in shops. Checking the age rating was easy. It was on the front of the box, how the most games are downloaded, it's harder – but not impossible. All features download some of the game's age rating on the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at www.familysafegames.org.uk.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then expect players to pay for in-game items (as in Fortnite) or in-game upgrades (as in Call of Duty). These are the free games for children to play for these items. Apps to be used for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children don't purchase in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so that accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On console devices (PlayStation, Xbox) which don't have user accounts, check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

PANTA

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the Apple App Store have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app is appropriate for your child. Additionally, all apps have parental controls which allow you to set age limits, restrict in-app purchases and download in-app purchases. These controls aren't foolproof, however, so be aware. It's apps featuring adult themes with an age rating of 18, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you to the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes or even gigabytes. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get it before from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

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WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, unfortunately rogue apps can slip through the net. Carers should be aware of games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (one might call this 'spoofing'). In addition, it's easy to see logos which deliberately look very similar to the official one. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check with the publisher to find out.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but violate copyright law – streaming music without people watching football matches, for example. These are legal apps, but they can lead to many problems. The streaming music services can often be used with multiple links. Watch for children installing illegal apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register, entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, as they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Billy Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Sunday Express and Computerfile. He's appeared regularly on a host of radio and television news and current affairs programmes, including BBC News, ITV News, and Sky News. He has also written and presented regular news and current affairs programmes.



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