

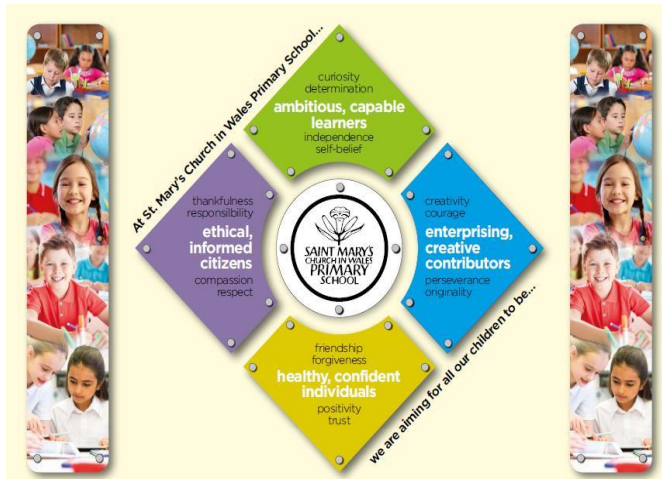
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Newsletter 3  
20.11.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Christmas is not cancelled ...**

This time of year, we are usually full throttle into learning songs and lines, ready for performances. As with everything this year, we are finding different ways of doing the things we love.

More details will follow as we draw nearer to the festive period, but I wanted to give you a taste of what we have planned.

**Festive Fridays** - Every Friday in December will be a theme day

☐ **Friday 4th December Elf Day** - To raise awareness of Alzheimers we will be doing all things Elfie, including dressing up as Elves! Elf yourself or wear red!

☐ **Friday 11th December Christmas Jumper Day** - To raise awareness for Save the Children we would love to see everyone in something festive or wear red!

☐ **Friday 18th December -Christmas Party Day**, to celebrate the end of term - we would love to see everyone in party clothes / non uniform

We won't be asking for donations but will send out the links if you wish to donate directly to the charities yourselves.

We know our children love to send Christmas cards to each other and their teachers, but this year we are asking that they don't bring any into school. Instead, we will work with the children in class, so they can send cards to one another and bring cards home to you.

Sadly, we are unable to invite parents / carers to our Christmas concerts, but we are working on a plan to film classes and we will share this with you all very soon!

Watch out for more details, and a permission form, to let us know you are happy for your child to be part of the film that will be shared with the school community.

During the month of December children will be learning about Advent:

Week 1: Hopes and Journeys

Week 2: Faith and Refuge

Week 3: Joy and Welcome

Week 4: Peace and Belonging

All children will be learning about

- What Advent means
- How we prepare for Advent
- How we say "Welcome" in different languages
- Important places in our community
- How we can help others and what we could change to be more welcoming
- What "belonging" means
- What helps you feel that you belong?

The children will be reading the story "Refuge" by Anne Booth and learning about "Paddington Bear", A Refugee Story by Michael Bond. Please click on the links below for more information:

[the-christmas-story-refuge-anne-booth-refugees](#)

[paddington-bear-story-refugee-and-message-kindness](#)

The classes will also be decorated with all things Christmassy, by the children. Our school will be brimming with festive cheer and sparkle! We intend to make this Christmas as special as we can and appreciate your support in helping us to do that.

### **Forest School / Outdoor Learning**

Fortnightly, each class spends a whole day in the forest. This is a fantastic experience and one that the children thoroughly enjoy. As the weather takes a turn for the worse, we ask that children come to school with a waterproof coat.

The children also go outside at break times and lunchtimes, even if it is raining. Fresh air and exercise is so important. A waterproof coat is essential for the school day.

### **Music Tuition**

Currently we are working with Gwent music to ensure that music lessons can start again. We are very excited about this and will keep you updated.

### **Parent Mail**

Currently we have **90%** of parents / carers who have registered with parentmail and **68%** who have downloaded the **FREE** app - this is amazing! Thank you for helping us to communicate with you quickly and effectively - it makes such a positive difference!

If you haven't registered, please contact the school office, who will provide you with all the relevant details and help you to get started!

## Annual Report to Parents / Carers

The report details key information from both 19-20 and 20-21. This has been uploaded to 2 places on our school website <https://www.stmarysciw.co.uk/>

1. Main menu, select 'Our School' - 'Governors' - a link to the report has been put underneath Alan William's (Chair of Governors) welcome message.

Or.....

2. Main menu, select 'More info' then 'Governor's Report to Parents'.

Thank you all for your continued support to ensure "As a family, we dream, we believe and we achieve."

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Mrs P Willis  
Acting Head Teacher