



Newsletter - December 2025

A message from Mrs Kendrew-Jones



Dear St Mary's Families

What a busy and exciting term it's been at St Mary's! Over the last few weeks, we've had so many wonderful moments to enjoy together. The Santa Dash was great fun - it was lovely to see so many children being active and sharing that festive spirit.

Our EYFS and KS1 Christmas Performances were fantastic! The children performed beautifully, singing songs and delivering their lines in front of very big audiences! I'm sure you were very proud of them.

But that's not all! This term has been packed with amazing experiences: Careers Week inspired all of our children, performances at The Cast Theatre showed off our talents, and visits to Sir Thomas Wharton Academy provided new opportunities. We were honoured to welcome the Bishop of Doncaster, and we loved singing at The Tickhill Light Switch On. The Christmas Fayre brought us all together, martial arts lessons kept us moving, and our Remembrance Service and Christingle in church helped us reflect on the true meaning of the season.

How did we fit it all in? It's all thanks to the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of our children, staff and families. We really are blessed at St Mary's to share our days with such clever, kind and energetic children!

Looking ahead, we've got lots more exciting plans for the Spring term and I can't wait to see what we achieve together next.

For now, I wish you all a restful and happy Christmas break, filled with quality time with your loved ones.

Warm wishes

Rebecca Kendrew-Jones

Headteacher



St Mary's CE Primary and Nursery School

www.tickhillstmarys.co.uk

A message from Mrs Over



I can't believe it is almost time for Christmas! As I write this reflecting on the first full term, I feel incredibly proud of our new Nursery and Reception children who have completed their biggest term of the year and made so much progress already. I have been chatting to some Year 6 children, who are really looking forward to taking their buddies to 'Follow the Star' which is always a highlight of the activities that the littlest children and the biggest children partake in together. Talking of highlights, Year 3 leading our Christingle service in church was absolutely beautiful and always the signal that Christmas fun is ready to commence in school! I'm looking forward to seeing Year 6 lead our end of term Christmas service in church on Friday 19th December.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. Stay safe, and see you in 2026!

Shout outs to:

- Francesca F - for representing St Mary's in such a composed and mature manner when we visited Estfeld for her school mayor work.
- Nola B - for showing such confidence in your Nativity.
- Cian D - for bringing the Christingle 'Roll n' Roll' joy!

Mrs Over x



Nursery - A message from Mrs Johnston



I can't believe that we have already completed our first term and it's time for Christmas!

We have learnt all about celebrations by starting off with bonfire night, birthdays, Children in Need and finishing with the children's favourite time of year: Christmas. It has been lovely to make festive memories with them and see all their excitement around this time of year.

Our Nativity this year was 'Whoops-A- Daisy Angel' - they performed brilliantly to all their grown ups by learning all the songs, actions and remembering it all for our two performances. I know that they made all their grown ups very proud and they made us very proud too! It was truly a wonderful Nativity!!

We had a special visit from a theatre company who came in to show us the 'Hare and the Tortoise'. The children loved seeing this performance; they laughed all the way through and joined in with all the highs and lows of the story. The smiles on their faces were beaming from ear to ear.

I am so proud of all of Nursery this term on how they have settled into school life and are already being St Mary Superstars!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you all have a wonderful time with your families.

Shout outs to:

- ALL of Nursery for trying really hard in their Nativity.
- Teddy - for developing his confidence and building lovely friendships this half term.
- Rosie - for always being a little superstar, making the right choices and bringing a smile into Nursery everyday.









Reception - A message from Miss Belnavis



As Christmas fast approaches, festivities are in full swing down in our foundation stage. This is our favourite time of year, we love creating magical memories for our children to get them into the Christmas spirit! We are knee deep in wrapping paper, gift tags and tinsel and the children have thoroughly enjoyed helping Santa out in our very own workshop.

Our Nativity this year was 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' and all of the children made us so incredibly proud. They performed so many songs, learnt so many lines and managed to pull off not one, but two cracking performances! Well done! It really is hard to believe that the children have only been in school for one term and they are already flourishing.

The children had a wonderful morning following the star with their buddies. They had so much fun searching for baby Jesus before eventually stumbling across a tiny stable where they were greeted by Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the animals. How wonderful!

We are so proud of all the children and their achievements this term. We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful new year with your family and friends.

Shout outs:

- Reception class- for ALL showing their best selves and trying super hard in our nativity performance.
- Hollie-Mae- for trying super hard with her phonics and reading and showing some brilliant progress from last half term.
- Oscar- for being a little ray of sunshine! You have settled into school so beautifully and are growing each and every day in confidence and self belief. Oscar has blown us away with his progress this term, especially with his fine motor control. Well done, we are so proud of you.







Year 1 - A message from Mrs Kabesh



IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

This is my most favourite half term packed with glitter, tinsel and joy! As well as our normal curriculum work, we have also been learning all about the Nativity and learning our version

of it. We hope that you enjoyed our singing and actions and hope that this lasts long into the New Year!

We have worked super hard this term and this has shown through the quality of the work that the children are producing. We have worked hard with our phonics so that we can represent them in our writing and recognise them in our reading which has produced more confident readers and writers. I love this!

We have learned all about Autumn and the changes that happen due to the cold weather. We have learned all about different materials in Science and we have learned all about 3D shapes and numbers to 10.

We have all written our letters to Santa, eaten our chocolate from our calendars and are ready now to get even more excited to see the Big Man with all his reindeer. Watch out for him on Christmas Eve!

I hope that you get lots of deliveries on Christmas Day and enjoy your Christmas holidays.

Tinsel covered Shout Outs:

- Zachery - for listening well, making good choices and taking advice on board to be your best self. What a star!
- Amber, Fran, Noa, Lola, Paisley and Millie - for always being such role models who try with every inch of their being. My little beauties!
- Harry W - for listening well and ensuring you are making good choices. Well done!







Year 2 - A message from Mrs Ashbridge





Wow, what an AMAZING half term we have had!

It has been filled with festive cheer, Christmas carol singing... and a LOT of animal-themed costumes for our nativity! It has certainly been a jam-packed few weeks for Year 2, as we continued our learning while also fitting in plenty of practice for our nativity, *Born in a Barn*. I hope you felt as proud as I did watching the children. They spoke so clearly and sang so beautifully, all while standing bravely in front of a large audience. **Well done, Year 2!**

To start off the Christmas fun, we made our own Christingle oranges in class, ready to light and hold throughout our whole school Christingle service in church. Following on from this, we were treated to an in school theatre production of *The Hare And The Tortoise*, great fun! Alongside our nativity rehearsals, we have been writing our own animal stories inspired by our class text, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The children loved creating their stories, and they were a joy to read—full of fun, humour, and fantastic storylines. We also wrote our very own letters to Santa telling him all about what we have been up to in class this half term and what we would like for Christmas.

In Maths, we have been learning our number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 as well as counting in our 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also learnt how to add tens, ones and 2-digit numbers using both mental and written strategies to help us. In Art, we have been exploring primary and secondary colours using watercolours, with a focus on the four seasons and the colours that represent each one. Building on this, the children created some beautiful calendars to take home. They worked SO hard on them and were, quite rightly, very proud of their finished pieces.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas, and I will see you all in the New Year!

Shout outs:

- My beautiful angels in the nativity; Jersey-Jay, Freya & Nila - bravely standing up to sing and dance together on stage.
- Reuben G - speaking and singing loud and proud on stage, well done!
- Banoub - taking the time to know EVERY single word, action and speaking part throughout the Nativity, thank you.





Year 3 - A message from Miss Siddall



It has been a fantastic yet busy term packed full of Christmas fun and learning. I cannot believe the Autumn term is complete. We started Christmas early in year 3, practising our Christingle service ready for church and what a beautiful moment it was! For most of the children, it was their first time performing on stage in church and we are incredibly proud of them. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

To complete our Stone Age topic, we designed, made and evaluated a pair of trousers for UG. Unfortunately his trousers were made of stone, meaning he was incredibly comfortable. We discussed using animal skin and sewing the fabric together using an animal tooth and intestines! We had a go at sewing our own using running stitch and the results were AMAZING! We have some hidden seamstress'/seamsters among us.

In science, we have been learning about rocks and soils. We have explored a range of rocks and their properties and identified what they are used for. We then discussed how rocks are formed in different ways through processes such as erosion and weathering. We made sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks using chocolate before completing our non-chronological report about the rock cycle.

I am looking forward to seeing the children in January.

Merry Christmas!

Special mentions to:

- Eliza - for attending early learners with a positive attitude to learning and showing great focus. Mrs Chapman is impressed.

- Imogen - you consistently follow expectations and are always pushing to be the best version of yourself.
- Reggie - for showing excellent resilience when practising his phonics sounds, you are really working hard on your reading. I am super proud - Miss Siddall.





Year 4 - a message from Miss James



craftycicijoy



Christmas is almost here and Year 4 have had another fantastic half term!

In writing, we have completed 2 units: a character description and a diary entry. For our character description we were inspired by our favourite fictional world: Harry Potter! Year 4 completed their 'Show What You Know' final pieces writing about Dumbledore - Hogwarts School's Headmaster. Outcomes were brilliant and they all portrayed Dumbledore's magical, wise and powerful presence beautifully! For our diary entry, we used our Guided Reading book: "Henry's Freedom Box" for inspiration. This book is based on the true events of Henry Brown; a man who escaped slavery by hiding inside a small box and mailing himself to Pennsylvania where he could live his life as a free man. A harrowing part of his story involved his family being sold to another white family whilst Henry was at work in a tobacco leaf factory and he never got to see them again. We have been learning to use a range of quality vocabulary with informal phrases and sentence structures that will provoke emotion with the reader as they tell the story of that awful day through Henry's voice.

In Maths, we have completed our Multiplication & Division A unit and will now be completing some consolidation activities for the unit until we break up for Christmas. We have looked at all the key times tables facts, including multiplying by 1 and 0 and then multiplying 3 x 1 digit numbers (e.g $7 \times 5 \times 9$). We have looked at efficient strategies for multiplication such as multiplying by 3 and then doubling the answer for "x6" or multiplying by 10 and subtracting 1 lot of, for "x9" etc. Number Sense is our new times Tables fluency scheme and Year 4 are absolutely loving it! We complete our session every day at 9am and it is a fantastic, fun and collaborative way to start each day of our week! We anticipate this scheme will build the confidence in our Year 4's and the fluency of their Times Table facts in time for the MTC check in Summer!

For our wider curriculum, we have been busy learning all sorts of fantastic skills! We have been classifying invertebrates in Science, locating the countries and the capital cities within North America in Geography, learning how to discuss the time, our daily routine and the timings of programmes on the TV in French and learning the special meaning of, and hand sewing our own 'Freedom' quilt in Art.

I cannot believe we are not too far away from being half way through this academic year already! I hope all of Year 4 and their families have the most special Christmas break and I

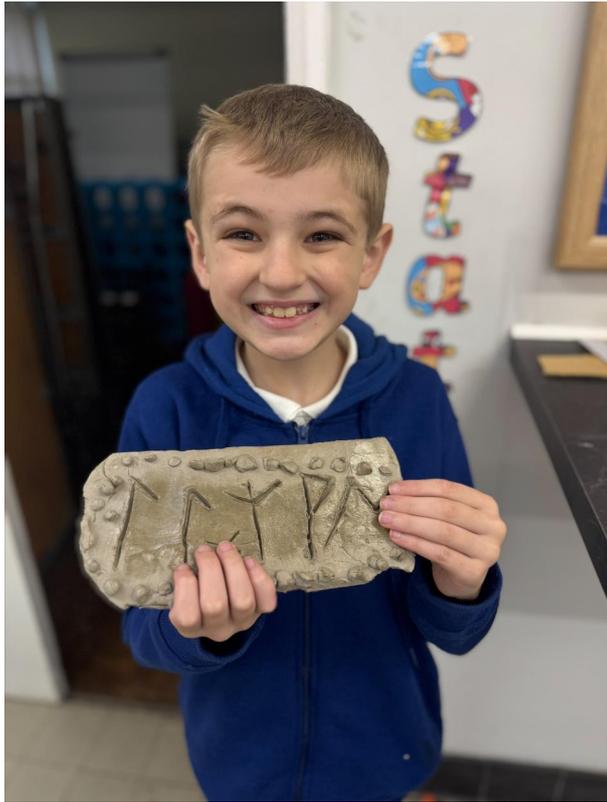
look forward to seeing them all back in January - when they'll no doubt look a little taller and have some lovely stories to tell!

Special mentions go to:

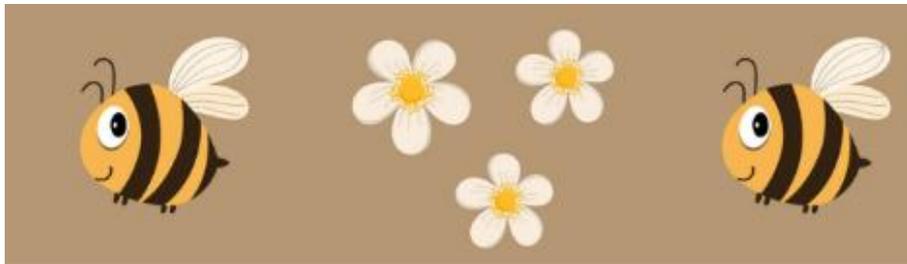
- Bear - thank you for being a wonderful role model to all your friends in the classroom. You have a superb attitude towards your learning and you always strive to be your best self everyday! "Be more like Bear!"
- Rocco - you have a great work ethic and particularly in your writing, you have shown great perseverance to produce some wonderful writing pieces this half term! Proud of you!
- Charlotte - you can be a worry bear sometimes but this half term you have proved to yourself that with a little more faith and self- belief, you can accomplish anything! You are growing in confidence and its great to see because you're a star!



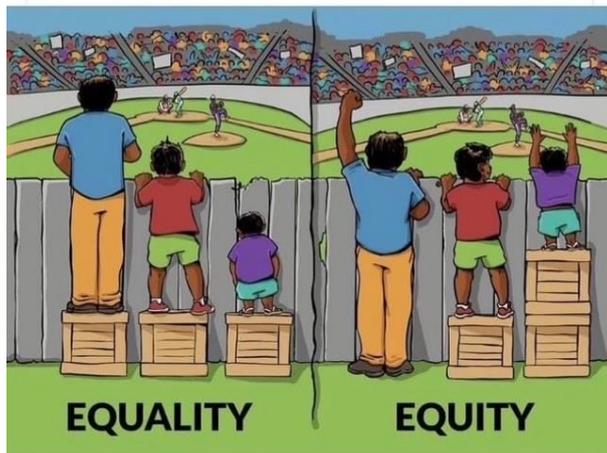




Year 5 - A message from Mrs Buckle



In our classroom, "fair" does not mean that every child gets the same thing; it means every child getting what they need to be successful.





What a roller coaster of a half term we have had! Let me write a quick list of all the things Year Five have been involved in over the last six weeks - I can't think when we have had time to eat or sleep. Here goes ...

- Drama presentation at Cast
- Tag Rugby Tournament
- Anti-Bullying Assembly
- The Hare and the Tortoise Production
- Road Safety Training
- Transition Visit to Sir Thomas Wharton
- Christmas Jumper, Christmas Dinner and Santa Dash Day

I am exhausted just remembering everything. Year Five have made me extremely proud through the way they have shown enthusiasm, resilience and wonderful behaviour. We have had so many positive and complimentary comments from people - well done to you all.

Of course, we have also managed to fit in a squidge of work in between performances and visits. I think we all really enjoyed our baking using rationing recipes. The eating was even more fun. We have learned to play a few short tunes on our recorders and will continue this into the Spring term.

Have a wonderful Christmas Break - see you all again soon.

Special mentions go to:

- Annie - for sharing her wonderful art work with us.
- EVERYONE- for a superb performance at Cast. (We WERE the best!)



Schoolchildren take centre stage in play about online safety

Sharon Barber

Almost 100 primary schoolchildren have performed a landmark play to mark the 10th anniversary of the National Children's Safeguarding Centre (NCSC) in Devon. The 10-month Devonshire Safety Play campaign - led by the NCSC, the Devonshire County Council and Devonshire Public Health - has reached nearly 100,000 children, parents and professionals, all with the goal of helping families keep children safe in an ever-changing online world. Launched in April 2014, the multi-agency campaign set out to give parents and experts the tools and skills to support their children online. Since then, a series of interactive workshops, free online resources, and an event for children's professionals across the city.

A highlight of the campaign was a tour of The Iceberg, a specially commissioned stage about online safety, featuring primary school children from across Devonshire. The play, written and produced by the Devonshire Theatre Company, is a specially commissioned play to explore the dangers children



Devonshire youngsters took part in a production in Exeter.

who advised how intimate friends in the form of her work, sharing important messages and a creative way. "What started as a local campaign will soon go national, with more resources to help every family start. These vital resources will be sent to every family in Devon. The play will be touring the region, and the message will be shared in the film will soon be on the NCSC's learning resources."

The performance was led by a group of children from the Devonshire Theatre Company, which gave a keynote

on the rise of AI generated abuse and its growing impact online. The NCSC also outlined how the new Online Safety Act, which the charity helped campaign for, will affect professionals and local businesses across Devonshire.

Karen Dorman, Public Health Improvement Co-ordinator and Lead for Shared Leadership and the Children Partnership, said: "This campaign shows the power of partnership. The creativity of young people and the commitment of professionals across Devonshire have made online



Devonshire youngsters took part in a production in Exeter.















Year 6 - A message from Mrs Lowe



1 - Merry Christmas everyone!

It's Christmas time already! Christmas isn't just a season for rejoicing but it's for reflecting too and as I reflect on our half term I'm amazed once again what we have managed to pack in!

A group of us went to Sir Thomas Wharton to compete in an inter-schools tag rugby tournament - we played so well and came in 2nd place - great result! The theme this year for anti-bullying week was "Power for Good" and in Y6 we focused on acting out some scenarios and how we could use our voice as a power for good. We all worked hard to write remembrance poems; practised our oracy skills and presented a service to the whole school and adults on 11 November, I was so proud as everyone spoke clearly and with intonation, some of us went to the church service representing the school as we laid the wreath on the war memorial. Dressing up for Children in Need day reminded ourselves of what we have and what others don't have as well as raising money to send to charity. We had a lovely time making Christingles with our Reception buddies and then taking them to church for the Christingle service. The day after we were treated to a theatre performance of the Hare and

the Tortoise - great fun! Some of us helped to run stall at the school Christmas Fair, again giving our own time to help others. Our term has finished with our church presentation of the Christmas Tree, we all learned to sing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" in Makaton.

Phew! We managed to do all our curriculum learning too!

I wish everyone a very peaceful and joyful Christmas.



2 - Well done to our rugby team

Shout out to:

- Sophie, Porscha, Holly and William- for giving their time to lay the Remembrance wreath at church
- Lily- for showing us all how to be resilient
- Lilly- for always having a smile to cheer us even on a grey wet morning



3 - Diwali decorations



4 - Diwali decorations



5 - Follow the star with our buddies



6 - Brain break dancing! Such fun!



7 - Fun with measures in maths



8 - Weaving in our art lessons

Spring Term Dates 2026

Return to school	Monday 5 January
YR & Y6 Height/Weight Checks with School Nursing Team	Thursday 8 January
Y3 Roman Day (in school) (Dressing up is optional)	Friday 9 January
Y2 Trip to The Deep, Hull	Tuesday 13 January
Closing date for Reception applications	Thursday 15 January 2026
Team of Y6/Y5 Indoor Athletics at STWA	Friday 16 January
Y1 Road Safety Session	Thursday 22 January (afternoon)
Y2 Multi-Skills at STWA	Friday 30 January
Y1 Multi-Skills at STWA	Friday 6 February
Young Voices, Sheffield Arena (Y4-Y6 Vocal Group)	Tuesday 10 February
PTA Disco	Thursday 12 February
Break up for Half Term	Thursday 12 February
INSET DAY – School Closed	Friday 13 February
HALF TERM	
Return to school	Monday 23 February
Y3 Dance Festival at STWA	Friday 27 February
World Book Day (dress up as anything)	Thursday 5 March
British Science Week	w/c Monday 9 March
Y3 Dodgeball at STWA	Friday 13 March
Parents Evening Option 1	Tuesday 17 March
Red Nose Day (Comic Relief, <u>wear red</u>)	Friday 20 March
Y4 Basketball at STWA	Friday 20 March
Parents Evening Option 2	Wednesday 25 March
End of term Church Service (Y5 to lead)	Thursday 26 March at 2.00pm
INSET DAY – School Closed	Friday 27 March
EASTER HOLIDAY	
School reopens to pupils	Monday 13 April

Please note these dates are subject to change

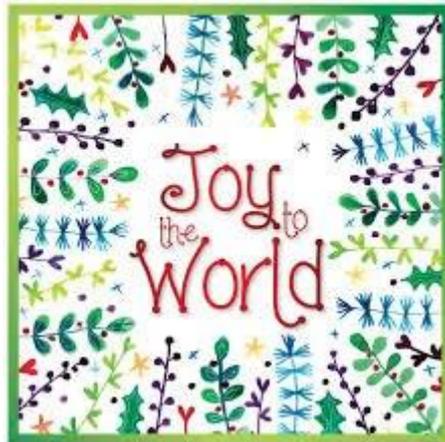
Residential Dates & Final Payment Deadline Reminder

- Y3 Sherwood (Wed 3 June to Thu 4 June 2025): Final payment due by Friday 20 March 2026
- Y4 Castleton (Wed 10 June to Fri 12 June 2026): Final payment due by Friday 20 March 2026
- Y6 & Y5 Whitby (Tue 16 June to Fri 19 June 2026): Final payment due by Friday 20 March 2026

Weekly Reminders w/c 5 January 2026

The week ahead w/c 5 January 2026	
Monday 5 January 2026	<u>Welcome back!</u>
Wednesday 7 January	<u>Guitar lessons</u> will take place with Mr Merrett from 11.10am (for KS2 children). Don't forget to bring in your guitar!
Thursday 8 January	<u>YR & Y6 Height/Weight Checks</u> – the School Nursing team will be in in the morning to carry out these checks. <u>Piano Keyboard lessons</u> will take place with Mr Nettleton from 9.50am (for KS2 children).
Friday 9 January	<u>Y3 Roman Day</u> - This will be a whole day activity with an expert on this topic. Your child is welcome to dress up as a Roman, however this is optional fun.

Happy Christmas Break



*Wishing everyone a very relaxing Christmas break and see you all in the New Year on
Monday 5 January 2026.*
