



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

10th December 2021

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Message from Mrs Scanlon	All	Mrs Scanlon

It has been another busy week here at St Mary's. We have continued as a school with our focus on the second week of Advent. This week we lit our second purple candle which represents PEACE and we have reflected on this important message across the school.

The importance of caring for others has been very evident this week in the wonderful donations that we received from our families to share with the elderly patients and their carers at local care homes and we thank you all so much for your thoughtfulness and kindness in contributing to the care packages. Many thanks to Miss Mayne who organised this project this for the school.

We are also very fortunate to have such a wonderful team in the school kitchen who prepared a wonderful Christmas lunch for all our children and staff on Wednesday. It truly was a fantastic occasion for the whole school and we thank our kitchen staff team for their hard work and enthusiasm in providing this special meal for our children and staff.

Even though it is the penultimate week before Christmas and so many extra things are happening in school, it has been great to see the children still demonstrating their usual enthusiasm for their learning. There have been many examples of this as I have walked around the school; such as witnessing excited pupils engaged in their learning in Design and Technology, as well as seeing pupils enjoying their PE lessons and their topic work. I have also presented Headteacher awards to many of our pupils this week for their efforts and achievements - which has been wonderful.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience with our school decision regarding our Nativity and Carol Concert this year. We are all looking forward to seeing you at our outside performances, where the children will be singing their songs and we will be sending you details of how to access the full nativity and concert recordings towards the end of next week.

Have a restful weekend
Best wishes
Mrs Scanlon

Farewell to Mrs White	All	Mrs Scanlon
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Sadly, Mrs White will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this term. Mrs White is embarking on a new role with East Sussex County Council and we wish her every success in her new job.

Mrs White will be greatly missed at St Mary's and I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs White for all her hard work and support for our children, as well as her dedicated service to our school and community throughout the last four years as a class teacher, subject leader and also as a school governor.

SCREEN TIME

Over the past 18 months, children have been far more limited in the way they can spend their recreational time than ever before due to Covid-restrictions. This, as well as the need to use devices for Remote Learning, has led to an increase in children spending time on electronic devices at home.

As such, it's important to take time to reflect on how much time our children are using their devices for and what impact this might be having on them. High levels of screen time have been linked to health implications such as poor sleep and wellbeing difficulties such as weakened relationships with family members.

Children and young people's views on screen time use...

- 88% said screen time had a negative impact on their sleep
1.5 hours was the average time spent on screens before falling asleep 
- 41% said screen time had affected their play / fun 
- 35% said screen time had a negative impact on their mood / mental health 
- 18% said screen time had a negative impact on their family time and schoolwork 

109 children and young people aged 11-24 years took part in this engagement exercise.



Nativity / Carol Concert	All	Office
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A reminder of our Christmas performances next week which will be held outside in the school playground. Please enter via the green gate at the end of the school drive and please do not attend if you have any symptoms of Covid-19.

Tickets must be booked via ParentMail and Monday and Thursday performances are now sold out. 2 tickets per family only please.

- 13th - @2.00pm KS1 Nativity Performance Red, Orange and Yellow classes
- 14th - @9.30am KS1 Nativity Performance Red, Orange and Yellow classes
- 15th - @9.30am KS2 Carol Service, Green. Blue, Indigo and Violet classes
- 16th - @2.00pm KS2 Carol Service, Green. Blue, Indigo and Violet classes

For KS1 parents/carers, we ask please that you only come to watch **one** of the nativity performances on either the 13th and 14th, not both, to give more people the opportunity to attend. Similarly, for KS2 parents we ask you only to come to **one** performance of the Carol Service on either the 15th or 16th.

While we understand that many people would like to see the children's performances, due to limited space this year, we must restrict tickets to **2 adults per family**. If you have children in both KS1 and KS2 you may apply for **2 tickets per family** for the nativity as well as the carol service performances.

No tickets will be sent home but we will have a list of the ticket orders made on the gate to check off on your arrival. Please do not attend if you do not have booked tickets

After school Clubs	All	Office
<p>Please be aware of the following if your child attends an afterschool club at school:</p> <p>Monday – Gymnastics – Last session will be on Monday 13th December Monday – Football Y3&4 – Finished this week. NO football next week. Tuesday Football Y5&6 - Finished this week. NO football next week. Thursday – Karate - Finished this week. NO karate next week. Friday – Dance – Finished today. NO Dance next week as the school finishes at 1pm.</p>		
Christmas Fair	All	Friends of St Mary's
<p>A reminder that it is The Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair is on Wednesday 15th December after school until 5pm.</p> <p>All activities will now be held in the school playground.</p> <p>Please come along and support this great event. There will be Christmas crafts to buy, raffle, chocolate tombola, teddy tombola, fun and games, music, mulled wine, hot chocolate and much more. All payments will be cash only so don't forget to bring some along.</p> <p>The Friends would appreciate some more volunteers for helping before, after or during the event. Please email friendsofstmaryscrowborough@gmail.com if you can help in any way, your time will be much appreciated.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing you all there.</p>		
Welcome	All	Mrs Scanlon
<p>Mrs Loraine Mottershead will be joining the staff team and the whole school community at St Mary's, as class teacher for Violet class (Y6) in Term 3.</p>		
School shoes / uniform	All	Mrs Scanlon
<p>We appreciate towards the end of term it may be difficult to replace shoes that have children have grown out of, or broken. In some instances, we have allowed children to wear trainers temporarily while new replacement shoes are being sought. Please can you email the office to let us know if your child needs to wear trainers temporarily to school. Our uniform policy states that black shoes should be worn to school.</p> <p>We are very short of stock of school uniform - jumpers and cardigans in older children's sizes for our second-hand uniform supplies. If you have any jumpers or cardigans that your children have grown out of, we would be grateful to receive them so they can be sold to others who require them.</p>		
End of Term	All	Office
<p>Please note that the last day of term is Friday 17th December 2021.</p> <p>School closes at 1.00pm and children need to be collected at this time on the last day.</p> <p>Many thanks</p>		
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day		

Thank you for all the kind donations received on the Save the Children Christmas jumper day on Wednesday. A total of **£166.84** was collected which is a fantastic amount. Thank you.

School Meals Payments

All

Office

There is an increasing number of parents and carers not paying for their children's school meals in advance. Debit balances are growing and despite reminders being sent, the requests to review and clear outstanding balances are not being actioned. We appreciate that some people may be experiencing financial difficulties and if so, we have always invited those people to contact to the headteacher in confidence. Head@stmarysrc.e-sussex.sch.uk

If you need further help on how to pay for the school meals on a day-by-day basis, or to activate an automatic top up facility, please see the help sheets on these links.

Booking and paying for meals

https://www.parentpay.com/DOCH/school-support/index.html?page_id=9265.html

Please note that you cannot select menu choices for our school, you can just book the meal for the correct day and choices will be made in class with the morning register. You can only book or cancel meals up to 8.30am on the day.

Bank transfer and auto top-up

<https://www.parentpay.com/bank-transfer-and-auto-top-up/>

Thank you

Parking

All

We have had more complaints about parents parking on the double yellow lines and the zig zag area outside the school. Residents of Pollington Place have also complained of our parents parking in their road, which is a private road, and across the entrance restricting access. Please park responsibly and be considerate of our neighbours who should not have access restricted to their property by persons parking inconsiderately.

Yellow zig-zag lines outside schools indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited.

The Highway Code states that you should keep these areas clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children. We also have an upright sign outside our school which indicates a mandatory prohibition of stopping during the times shown.

These areas exist to keep the school entrance clear so that it is safer for our children, please do not put our community at unnecessary risk due to inconsiderate parking.

Thank you

Diary Dates

All

December

17th - Last day of term – **1pm finish for all pupils**

January 2022

4rd - First day of term 3

6th - Epiphany Mass 9.30am

24th - 28th Science Week

February 2022

1st - Candlemas Celebration

8th - Safer Internet Day and E- Safety Assembly

11th - Last day of term for pupils (3.15pm finish)

21st - First day of term 4