



St Mary's Catholic Primary School School Bulletin

3rd December 2021

SUBJECT	YEAR GROUPS RELEVANT TO	STAFF CONTACT
Advent	All	Mrs Scanlon

Advent began last Sunday and throughout school we have certainly been preparing for Christmas this week. Our advent wreath has been shared with the children and we have been concentrating on the theme of *Hope* as our first purple candle was lit in our Gospel Assembly this week. We also have been reflecting as a school on the true meaning of Christmas for us all here at St Mary's and throughout the world.

Weekly Online Safety Update	All	Mr Getty
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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.



RCPCH & Us
The voice of children, young people and families

School arrival times reminder	All	Mrs Scanlon
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Children are expected to be in school **by 8.55am** every day for morning registration.

Children can arrive and come into the school from 8.45am. Children arriving after 8.55am should come to the school office to report their arrival as late, after the registers have been taken. .

Thank you

Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Lunch	All	Office
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On **Wednesday 8th December**, on the same day that we will be having our school Christmas lunch, we will be taking part in **Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day fundraising campaign**. We're asking families to make a suggested donation of £1 to support children in the UK and around the world. By taking part we'll be helping children who don't have the basics they need to survive – like food, school or medicine – to start seeing the magic in the world again.

There's no need to buy a new jumper – wear one you already have, or decorate an old jumper using tinsel and Christmas decorations. If you want to get crafty at home there see attached ideas from the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Gameplan.

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper/cardigan, but they must still wear the rest of their school uniform.

We'd really appreciate your support to make Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day a success.

Thank you to all those who have ordered a Christmas lunch. For children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 the lunch is free of charge. For key stage 2 the charge is £2.15. This is payable via ParentPay in the usual way, add the funds to your child's school meals account or book a meal online for Wednesday 8th. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and does not normally have school meals but would like to have the Christmas lunch, please contact the office to get your ParentPay account activated.

**Nativity / Carol Concert
Tickets**

All

Office

Further to last week's bulletin a reminder that you must book tickets via ParentMail in order to see your child's performance in the nativity and / or carol services.

Please log into your ParentMail account and go to the section for payment items the to the **SHOP section** which has a shopping trolley icon, click on here and you will see the event for each performance relevant to your child/children. There is no cost for the tickets, please select the performance that you wish to attend and select the number of tickets, **maximum of 2 tickets/family**

There is a limit to the total number of tickets for each performance so they will be allocated first come first served from the time booked on Parentmail.

Monday 13th - @2.00pm KS1 Nativity Performance Red, Orange and Yellow classes

Tuesday 14th - @9.30am KS1 Nativity Performance Red, Orange and Yellow classes

Wednesday 15th - @9.30am KS2 Carol Service, Green. Blue, Indigo and Violet classes

Thursday 16th - @2.00pm KS2 Carol Service, Green. Blue, Indigo and Violet classes

Please note that the 2pm Carol Service on Thursday 16th December is now fully booked.

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** 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 door to check off on your arrival. **If on the day of the performance, you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 you must**

not attend. Face masks/coverings must be worn by adult audience members during the performances unless exempt.

If you need to bring pre-school children to the performance, they will need to be seated on an accompanying adult's lap, due to limited space. Pushchairs can be left in the parent's shelter.

We do hope that all the Christmas events will be able to go ahead as planned. However, if Covid cases rise further locally, we may have to make decisions to cancel, or review whether it is appropriate to have parents/carers attending these events.

FSM Christmas Fair	All	Friends of St Mary's
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We would be very grateful for donations of chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola for the Christmas Fair which is being held after school on Wednesday 15th December 2021 until 5pm. If donations of chocolate items could be handed in the office by Tuesday 14th December, we would be very grateful. The chocolate tombola is always really popular and a great way to raise funds for the school.

We are also having a Teddy Tombola at the fair and we would welcome donations of good quality clean teddies / soft toys.

We've had some great donations so far for the Christmas hampers- please keep them coming.

If you have anything Red, Gold or Silver suitable for a Christmas Hamper, please donate into one of the coloured boxes in the school office.

It doesn't have to be big or expensive, it also doesn't have to be completely that colour, just a hint of red, gold or silver will do.

Think Bubble Bath, Bath Bombs, Games, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Toys, Food items, Drink items, Beauty products - the list is endless.

Raffle tickets for the hampers will go on sale from Monday next week. Further details to follow.

Thank you for all your support.

Friends of St Mary's

Parish Administrator Vacancy	All	St Mary's Church
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St Marys Catholic Church, Crowborough is seeking to appoint a Parish Administrator.

The role is 10 hours per week and the successful candidate will be an experienced, articulate and computer literate person who will be able to manage the Parish Administration.

For the full job description and application form please email stmaryschurchvacancy@gmail.com

The closing date for applications is 10th January 2021

First Holy Communion	All	St Mary's Church
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Fr. Dominic has asked us to send a reminder about St Mary's First Holy Communion programme in 2022. Mrs Rosemary Paremain and Ms. Catherine Heathcote remain as our Catechists.

In previous years, this has been available to pupils from Year 3 and above, however this year Pupils in Year 4 and above will be invited to join as Fr. Dominic believes that they will benefit from being a year older and wiser.

Fr. Dominic would like to meet your Family and we would ask you to arrange to meet with him before Friday December 10th 2021. From Monday January 10th 2022, Application Forms will be available both at School and at Church. These will need to be completed and sent back to Fr. Dominic before Sunday February 6th 2022.

The programme will be taught on Saturday mornings from 10am until 11am at St. Mary's school. The Dates are: 26th of February, 19th of March, 23rd of April and 21st of May.

Together with the catechists your Family will be able to choose either Saturday June 18th or Saturday June 25th at 2pm for your child's First Holy Communion.

If you are interested or wish to find out more information, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Dominic on: 01892 654608 or stmaryschurch.crow@gmail.com or crowborough@abdiocese.org.uk

Coding Camp	Year 5 & 6	Office
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Dr C's Electro Labs is delighted to offer a series of weekend sessions beginning in January 2022. Please see attached flyer.

We are sure it would be of great benefit for some pupils and could even make a thoughtful gift! It would be most suitable for Year 6 pupils and up, but if a child is particularly interested or experienced, we can decide on a case-by-case basis if the course would be suitable for them.

For testimonials and further information, you can visit the website – www.drcselectrolabs.com.

Kindest regards

Dr Darragh Corvan

Dr C's Electro Labs

Parenting Guide	All	Office
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Please find attached a new guide which outlines all the programmes available to support parents and carers, all ready for the new year and whatever it may bring!

This guide contains all the course information, dates and how to book. In fact, you will see each course has a QR code with it. Just using a QR code reader or camera on a phone will take you directly to the booking forms.

Here at 'Open for Parents', we can offer help and support directly to the parents, **free of charge**, as part of East Sussex's Early Help 0-19 Services provision. We provide a variety of online parenting courses, each with specific tips to help them deal with the most common behaviour problems.

This service is all run online, so parents and carers can join in from the comfort of their own home. All they need is a laptop, tablet or phone and internet access.

It feels like the problems caused over the last nearly 2 years have not gone away. Perhaps this is one way we can help you, as a school, help the parents to help their children.

If you would like any further information, please contact them direct using the information in the attached flyer.

St Gregory's Carol Service - Cancelled	All	St Gregory's
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St.Gregory's have notified us that they have had to take the decision to cancel the Carol Service at St Gregory's Catholic School scheduled for Thursday 9th December, in light of the recent developments with Coronavirus.

Information will be posted on their website in due course for a virtual Carol Service event we shall be hosting instead.

Dance Workshop	All	Studio N Dance
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We are holding a Festive Dance Workshop in the Christmas break and have attached the letter with all the info for parents, please see attached.

Diary Dates	All	Office
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December

8th - Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children

8th - Christmas Lunch in school

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

15th - Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair 3pm to 5pm

16th - @2.00pm KS2 Carol Service, Green. Blue, Indigo and Violet classes

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

Attached Documents

Christmas Jumper ideas

Parenting Guide

Studio N Dance Workshop letter