



Friday 8th December 2023

# ST MARY'S NEWS

The latest news from St Mary's CE VC First School

## Note from Mr Homer

Well, Christmas has well and truly arrived here at St Mary's!

Last Friday our incredible School Association hosted our first ever Christmas Market! It was a superb event which was very well supported by our community. A huge thank you to everybody who volunteered their time and particularly to Pippa and our School Association Trustees for making this into a reality!

This week we have been treated to some wonderful performances by our children. They have all amazed us with their confidence and exceptional singing. A huge thank you to all of our staff team and our wonderful Mrs Joy for supporting this. It takes a mammoth effort to put on these performances, but seeing our children spreading joy and being courageous makes it worth it. Thank you, also, to all of you parents for providing costumes, rehearsing lines, putting up with their endless singing, bringing your children back to school for the evening performance and for coming to support us.

Sadly, I have to announce to you all that Jane Dixon, our School Business Manager, will be retiring at the end of this term. Jane has been a part of the St Mary's family since her children walked through our doors in 1993 and she joined the School Association shortly after. In 2000, Jane started working at St Mary's as our Secretary and then moved on to being our Finance Officer and, in 2015, was promoted to School Business Manager. The amount Jane does for our school on a daily basis is unfathomable and her knowledge, skills and expertise will be hugely missed by us all! On behalf of the staff, governors and school community, we wish Jane all the best for her retirement!

## Note from Miss Dixon

After a long association with St Mary's First School, it is finally time to say 'goodbye'. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of this amazing school's journey and share in its success. I have lost count of the many teachers, support staff, governors and families that I have worked alongside over the years. However, there is one thing that has remained constant throughout and that is the unique Charminster community spirit that inspires and supports all who come into contact with the school. I wish you all health and happiness for the future.

### KEY DATES

**Tues 12th December - 2pm**  
Christmas Service ☺

**Wednesday 13th December**  
Local Food Links Festive Lunch

**Friday 15th December**  
Last Day, Party Day!

**Mon 18th to Fri 29th Dec**  
Christmas Holidays

**Monday 1st January**  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 2nd January**  
First Day of Term

**Tuesday 9th January**  
Year 1 - T@SM Church visit

**Thursday 11th Jan - 5:30pm**  
Y4 Hook Court Info Evening ☺

**w/c Monday 25th January**  
Parent Consultation Week ☺

**Tuesday 23rd January**  
Pantomime - Cinderella

**Monday 29th January - 9am**  
Ash Class Assembly ☺

**Tuesday 30th January**  
Year 2 - T@SM Church visit

**Mon 5th Feb - 8:45-09:15am**  
Curriculum Open Morning ☺

**Tuesday 6th February**  
Safer Internet Day

**Thursday 8th February**  
Last Day of Term

**Friday 9th February**  
INSET Day - school closed

**Mon 12th to Fri 16th February**  
Half Term - school closed

☺ = Parents invited



Ⓜ = Parents invited

### Christmas Service - Tuesday 12th December 2pm Ⓜ

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Service which will take place at St Mary's Church. We will be taking the entire school over to the church, so space will be very limited, but parents are welcome to join us. **We will be dismissing children from the church on this day and only children attending a club or going home on the bus will come back to school.** Please do not send in book bags on this day and, if possible, send lunch in a disposable bag so that we do not have to carry everything over to the church.

### Local Food Links Festive Lunch - Wednesday 13th December

Please ensure you have booked your child's roast dinner via this [LINK](#)

### Last Day, Party Day! - Friday 15th December

We invite the children to come to school wearing festive or party non-uniform ready for a day of celebration! Throughout the morning, each class will have a party and share in the joy of Christmas before we join together in the hall for a party lunch. You are welcome to send your child in with their own party-style lunchbox on this day - beige food and plenty of cake are most welcome, but please avoid fizzy drinks and remember we are 'nut-free'.



A huge thank you to everybody for supporting our Christmas Market! To all of the staff, parents, community members, external organisations and School Association trustees, we all extremely grateful.

**The total amount raised so far is...**

**£1,995.83**

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our focus for collective worship this half term is 'Joy'.

This week's BIG QUESTIONS are:

**What makes me joyful?**  
**What makes God joyful?**

Why not discuss one of these questions around the dinner table this weekend!?



Our school attendance for this academic year is currently:

**95.8%**

*Last week's winners were...*



## North Street Entrance

As you will know, our North Street entrance has been closed for some time now. The reason for this is that we had a number of large branches fall from the trees above and we were awaiting a tree survey before reopening.



We have now received the results of the tree survey and there is substantial work and further surveying to be done to ensure that these trees are safe.

For this reason, the North Street entrance will remain closed until this work has been completed.

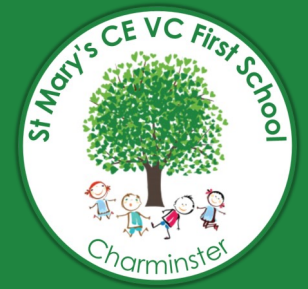


# Christmas at St Mary's



Have a lovely weekend!





# Are you concerned about a pupil?

If you are worried about a child,  
you must share your concern without delay.



**Mick Homer**

Headteacher

**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Lisa Thornicroft**

Teacher & SENDCo

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Karen Bennett**

Family Support Advisor

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**

**Our Safeguarding Governor is Reverend Pene Kennedy**

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused,  
you can make a referral directly to:

**Dorset's Children's Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866**

**In an emergency, or if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm,  
call the police on 999.**

Click or scan this QR code  
to go straight to Dorset  
Council's website:

