



St Mary's News 2021 November Issue 3

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"

Dear Parents,

Progress- We are fast approaching the time for initial assessments, at the end of November, in classes. Staff are seeing great improvements in attitudes to learning and, I am sure, will be sharing these and next steps with you, at our forthcoming parents' consultations. Please remind your children to listen and respond to advice offered. Most are -and the improvement is great. A small number are not- and the gaps will widen, if they have not got the resilience to listen and apply good advice. Whilst we can build on resilience from starting points in school, we need your support at home- then such behaviours will become embedded and learning and progress will be evident.

Engagement- Our new chrome books are being used very effectively, in core learning, to support engagement and progress. It has also opened up a new set of resources, for your children, in class and at home. Class page homeworks are beginning to reflect this. Ask your child what is good about their learning in school. Ask them about the many "hooks" that staff are really targeting, to ensure that provision is 21st century, multi-sensory, and appeals to learners. Please encourage a positive mind set and empower children to have self-belief, with your full backing.

Charitable works- Christmas is beginning to put in an appearance in local shops. Festive cheer is looming, we hope. Last year, we moved away from wrapping presents for underprivileged children, and placing them under our Christmas tree. Instead, we asked for donations, via our gateway. Where donations were given, pupils added another bauble to the school hall tree- it was eventually beautifully decorated, with each bauble representing children and their small acts of kindness, to help those in need. The local schools were humbled by the donations secured, via parish and school. With your help we can, once more, make Christmas a special time for less fortunate families, locally. The *Underprivileged Christmas Gifts* option will be available from the beginning of December.

This week and Reminders:

Swap old PE kits- recycle- Please remember your **nearly new, too small** PE kits, tomorrow- they can be placed in the shelters on the playground. Thank you, PTA - in anticipation.

Anti-bullying week – We invite you all to wear your odd socks to school, tomorrow as part of Anti bullying week. Wellbeing time has reflected on what bullying means. Talk to your child about odd socks and the idea that "it's okay to be different". I look forward to a colourful end to the week.

First Aid- Thanks, Mrs Hayes- the First Aid work in Y1-Y6 was well received, this week. Hopefully, we may have inspired some future budding health professionals, too.

Romans -Y4 were delighted to welcome their very own Roman Gladiator into school, this week. Their knowledge and enthusiasm was great. Thanks Mrs Fielden.

Class workshops- Your children have been actively engaging in class based workshops- showcasing their knowledge, recently. These are a modern, technological version of assemblies- I have seen the quality of work and progress apparent in these videocasts and I am really impressed. They will be available via class pages, shortly. Look out for them! Take the time to appreciate the quality and the learning implicit within them. You will be very proud of your children.

Upcoming events:

26/11/21 INSET Day – School will be closed to all children.

Parents consultations for N-Y3, Y5-Y6. will be throughout the day, on Friday 26th November. These can be booked via eSchools. Just log on through the school website. **Y4 Parents Consultations will be on the following Friday 3rd December**

Thursday 25/11/21- 1.30pm Y6 Mass of Commitment in church. All confirmandii will need an adult present, also.

Thursday 25/11/21 – this will be our first Lunchbox watch of the academic year. Some children are eating healthily- a few are not The school council are determined to encourage healthier life styles. Please support them. A summary of findings will be shared before the end of the Autumn term.

Thursday 2/12/21 – our **PTA PE Pop up Store** will be active. Bring your money- we hope that there will be some bargains.

Friday 3/12/21 – EYFS Disney Day in school.

And Finally... Enjoy the weekend, when it arrives