

December 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

What a busy half term it has been; as you can see from the range of activities that have taken place!

After Christmas, we are pleased to welcoming Jess Meteau to our team as our new SENDCO.

We are delighted to have been awarded the next level of Fairtrade accreditation – we are now a Fairactive School!



Details of our new school meal provider and how to order have gone out – don't forget to book yours ready for January

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at St Mary's. Please enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 2nd January 2024!

With every Christmas blessing,

The Staff of St Mary's School

Catholic Life

Remembrance

Yr 6 – Being Historians

Mass

Las Posadas

Many thanks to everyone who has hosted Mary and Joseph in their home, during Advent. There are some wonderful photos – they really have had an exciting time and been shown wonderful hospitality. Thank you also for your generous contributions to the local food bank – they have been very gratefully received will be much appreciated by people across our community this Christmas. Please take a look at the selection of photos from Mary and Joseph's Advent journey at the end of the newsletter and on the website.



and

Book Week



We had a super time during our book week with over 100 children coming back to school to listen to a bedtime story and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. Parents stayed in the hall and had an opportunity for a quick chat and a chance to buy some books from the book fair (£224 to spend on books for school – thank you very much).

Storytime – Judith Kerr. It was lovely to see so many parents and friend at our Reception and Year 1 Storytime. We celebrated the life of Judith Kerr, creator of Mog and the Tiger who came to tea, whose centenary is celebrated this year.

Years 5 and 6 have written and illustrated their own Mog adventures for Reception and Year 1.

Mass

It has been good to share Mass together to celebrate both the Feast of the King and Advent.



Christ

School Chaplains



We were thrilled that Fr Tim was commission our pupil chaplaincy. They have been busy helping out with worship across the school and at events like our Christingle service.

able to team.

Litter Pick

The school chaplains helped to tidy up the grounds.



Christmas Fair

Many thanks to everyone who organised and of course supported our Christmas Fair- especially the FOSM and our volunteers

Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity-

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's Nativity production – the children were wonderful and the show was greatly enjoyed by the audiences at all performances – Hoorah.

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Concert

A wonderful afternoon's entertainment was enjoyed by a packed hall of friends and parents. What a talented bunch! Many thanks to all the children for all their hard work.

School Carol Service

Years 5,6 and the school choir shared readings and carols with a packed congregation at St Edward's. As always, our thanks must go to Mr. Fawcett for all his hard work and expertise both at the Carol Service and for his support throughout the year, with the music life of our school



Uganda

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed towards our collections for Nakirebe Primary school in Uganda – we raised £501! We have transferred £500 towards their purchase of seeds etc and Christmas.

Clifftop Care Home Link

Year 6 made a lovely Advent Calendar for the residents, filled with chocolates and pictures of different characters from the Christmas story. Year 6 visited to sing carols. It was so lovely to be able to actually meet the residents after such a long time of restrictions.

Christmas Tree Festival Emmanuel Church



story



This year our school Christmas tree highlighted our link with Clifftop and the Intergenerational Project supported by Caritas Plymouth. Year 6 and Reception made some decorations together and the residents of Clifftop made us some decorations for the tree too!



Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme Concert

A number of our pupils, past and present, showed off their musical skills at the PILS concert. It was such an enjoyable evening and a treat to hear such talented musicians.

Advent 3



We will be lighting the Advent wreath throughout Advent and will be lighting the third candle on the last day of term. The staff will lead a short time of Christmas readings, carols and our final Praise assembly of the year during the afternoon of 15th December to finish the term with a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

Purbeck Village Quire

Members of the Purbeck Village Quire came and entertained us singing some of the local Worth Carols. Year 2 even joined them for a performance of *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*.

A group of nine people in historical costumes are performing on a stage. They are holding books and appear to be singing or reciting. The backdrop is a dark curtain with many small, white, star-like lights. The performers are dressed in various historical outfits, including cloaks, hats, and boots. The stage is lit, and the overall atmosphere is festive and theatrical.

School Choir

25th December Christmas Day 9am at Swanage, 11am at Wareham

Christmas Day
Sunday 25th December - 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Eucharist for Christmas Day

