



Attendance

Our attendance this week is 93.57%

Greetings, for the last newsletter of 2024 – it has been a long and busy term with both children and staff working hard. Many thanks to you for your continued support and we hope you have a restful and Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone on 6th January.

Christmas blessings,

From the Staff of St Mary's.

Mass



We ended the term today with Fr Tim celebrating Mass for the fourth Sunday of Advent – lighting the 4th purple candle (there are not many years when we are still in school to do that). It was a lovely opportunity to worship together, sharing carols and readings – where we spent time thinking especially about Mary. Thank you to Fr Tim for his support and ministry to us throughout the year and we wish him and the whole parish a Happy Christmas and hopefully a chance for some rest and relaxation in the new year.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find Mass times for the festive period and timings for other Christmas services taking place in the town.

Carol Service

As always, the Year 5 and 6 Carol Service was a very special occasion – they led the service with great confidence singing beautifully and reading clearly. Many thanks to the choir and of course Mr. Fawcett for lovely music for the service and all the musical support he gives to St Mary's throughout the year.

Film

Many thanks to the FOSM for providing such a wonderful Christmas treat for the whole school when they visited The Mowlem Theatre to enjoy a film - Arthur Christmas certainly kept everybody entertained for the afternoon.

Christingle



Year 3 and 4 spent a very festive morning making Christingles and then enjoyed their Christingle service at All Saints Church on Thursday. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to worship with us and many thanks to Rev'd Jo who organised the service and the members of All Saints who made us feel so welcome

World Gifts



Congratulations to all the children and a thank you to everyone for such wonderful support to enable us to buy such a wonderful selection of World Gifts! As you can see from the picture above, the children chose a wide variety of gifts, and their efforts are a real example of Catholic social teaching in action – well done.

Cards for Clifftop



Year 4 made some beautiful Christmas cards for our friends at Clifftop – we wish them all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing them in the New Year.

Father Christmas

We had a very special visitor on the last day of term – all the children were delighted to see Father Christmas!



Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to all our volunteers and governors for the time they devote and the support they give to St Mary’s throughout the year – we are blessed with the large number of people who help in a wide variety of ways.

News from the classes

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| <p>Reception</p> | <p>Reception has finished their first ever term at school! We have been so busy and learnt so much already. This week we have enjoyed a trip to the cinema, a Christmas craft afternoon with all our parents and carers and a visit from Father Christmas. We have had lots of Christmas fun in class making cards, calendars and decorations. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.</p> <div data-bbox="293 1001 711 1314" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="721 961 1045 1314" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1055 1001 1442 1314" data-label="Image"> </div> |
| <p>Year 1</p> | <div data-bbox="293 1356 521 1654" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Year 1 has had an amazing first term. We have had another busy week. We have been making Christmas cards and Christmas tree decorations. In RE, we have been thinking about Christmas traditions, both in school and at home. Thank you for sharing your family Christmas traditions- the children enjoyed hearing about them. Also in RE, we have been thinking about how special Mary is and how she is celebrated across the world. The children made flowers for Mary, and we went on our own journey to give them to Mary. We hope you have a lovely Christmas, and we look forward to seeing the children back in January.</p> |
| <p>Year 2</p> | <p>Year 2 has ended the school term in the same way that they began back in September – working hard and trying their best in everything that they do – well done to you all and be proud of all you have achieved! Thank you to all the parents for your support; it is greatly appreciated. This week, we greatly enjoyed writing our own version of a Traction Man adventure in which he and Scrubbing Brush saved the dolls from Evil Dr. Guinea Pig and</p> |

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| | <p>his Cage of Doom (thanks must go to Bailey, our school guinea pig, for taking on the role of the evil guinea pig). We finished off our Gunpowder Plot history topic by looking at different sources and thinking about how celebrations have changed since the 17th and 18th centuries. In Maths, we have been adding using ten frames and number lines. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and look forward to welcoming the children back in January.</p> |
| Year 3 | <p>Year three has had a busy but wonderful end to the Autumn term. This week in RE we finished learning about Advent and completed a lovely piece of work learning all about the Advent wreath. We finished our class text 'Stone Age Boy' and the children all wrote a book review explaining what they liked and disliked about the story and then they each drew a picture of their favourite scene from the story. The class is all very excited to start our new class text 'Poppy Pym and the Pharaoh's Curse'. This text fits perfectly with our new topic: 'Ancient Egypt'. On Thursday, Year 3 attended the Christingle and wowed everyone with their beautiful singing. We hope that everyone who was able to join us saw how wonderful the children's pomanders were. The Year 3 team wishes you all a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to welcoming the children back in 2025.</p> |
| Year 4 | <p>We've had a lovely end to the Autumn term this week with lots of Christmas activities including making Christmas cards for Clifftop and our Christingle Service on Thursday afternoon. The Year 4 readers read beautifully to a church full of people! We finished our class text 'The Emperor's Head' in English, having lots of fun acting out a scene from the play. In Maths, we have continued our 'Multiplication and Division' unit. The staff who have been with Year 4 this term would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of how the children have approached this half term. They've worked so hard in all subjects and have been trying their best for all teachers. It has been a pleasure to teach them. Well done Year 4! We wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in January.</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>Well done to year 5 on a fantastic opening term. They have showed excellent St Mary's spirit on many occasions. I have been impressed with the class's attitude to everything that is thrown their way. The sponsored run has been a huge success. Thank you so much for the kind donations where we are now able to donate the money to CAFOD who will purchase a cow for us. Year 5 and 6 combined ran over a 100 miles. This is a fantastic achievement.</p> |



Year 6

This week Year 6 led a Carol service at St Edward's Church. All pupils read fluently with a great deal of confidence. The singing was beautiful, and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part. They have also completed their story books based on 'Elmer' and read them to the pupils in Reception who listened carefully and were very much engaged.



Christmas Mass Times - St Edward's, Swanage, Wool, Wareham and Lulworth.

Christmas Eve **Wool:** 5.00pm carols followed by
5.30pm Mass

Christmas Eve **Lulworth Chapel:** 7.30pm carols
8.00pm Mass

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

St Mary's Parish Church - Swanage

Sunday 22nd December - Town Carol Service 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

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| 24th December | 4.00pm | Crib Service |
| | 6.30pm | Carols by Candlelight |
| | 11.30pm | Midnight Eucharist |

Christmas Day

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

St Mary's Stars

Laurie & Amelia

Mia & Jack

Ines & Zara

Millie & Delilah

Robert & Heidi

Adi & Matilda

Whole Class Star's

2, 3, 4, 5 ,6