

# St Mary's Newsletter

Christmas 2020

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## Important Dates

**Friday 18 December**

Last day of term

(usual Friday staggered pick-up times apply, but no after-school club)



## Season's greetings from Mrs Pearce

During this season of Advent, we take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas:

**the gift of Jesus given to us is shared by all.**

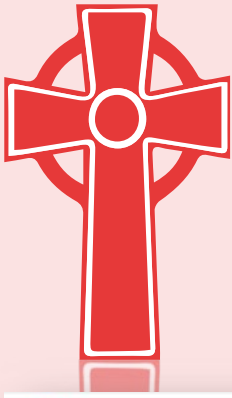
This year we are having to celebrate a little differently, but our children are amazing and so resilient. They are enjoying Christmas activities in their bubbles. Yesterday our wonderful kitchen staff provided us with a lovely Christmas lunch, which all children and staff enjoyed. We missed gathering together, nevertheless the children enjoyed silly jokes from crackers and Christmas music to accompany the food.

Our Year 6 sang the traditional 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' to the kitchen staff from outside in the seaside area (pictured above) which we all enjoyed.

Next week the fun continues with Christmas parties again in bubbles, school will provide the food this year.

(cont'd)





The Nativity will be performed outside by years 1-6 socially distanced, sadly no audience allowed this will be recorded in part and available to view on Twitter. Nursery and Reception have performed their own Nativities in their classrooms, these will be available on Tapestry.



Please take time to read the guidance from Public Health England with respect to remaining in contact with school until Christmas Eve, all the details needed are included in this newsletter. Some of you may have heard that the DfE are allowing schools to move an INSET day to next Friday to bring the last day of contact tracing to 23rd December. This would not prevent isolation over Christmas if a case is reported, therefore we have decided to keep to our planned dates. There seemed no benefit to children or families in making this change at late notice.

**School will be open Friday 18th December and close with usual staggered times for each class. There will be no After School Club in the afternoon.**

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and hard work, wishing them all a well-deserved rest over the Christmas holiday. I would like to thank our wonderful children for keeping me going, their words and actions never fail to bring a smile to my face. I would like to thank you, our parents, for your ongoing support and co-operation. Your kind words of appreciation mean so much. Finally, I would like to thank our Governors, they have supported me throughout this, with advice and encouragement, making this challenging year a little more manageable.

With very best wishes for the Christmas season, please enjoy time with your families and take time to reflect on the joy they bring us.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

**“Aiming high, dreaming bigger,  
Praying together, growing in God’s Love.”**





Guidance from



Public Health  
England

## COVID-19 notification process during the Christmas period

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the Christmas break, you must notify the school as soon as possible so they can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with Public Health England, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate. In the event of a positive test during the holidays you should contact:

Julia Pearce – [head@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk)

This address will only be monitored until Christmas Eve as, after this point, your child(ren) should not be a close contact of anyone at the school. Please do not call the normal absence telephone line as this will not be covered during Christmas break.

Remember, as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test regardless of it being Christmas. Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

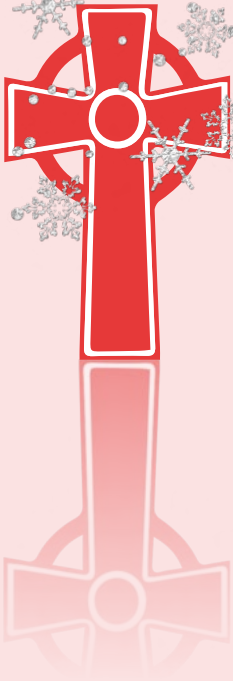
If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to nursery or school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at holiday activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide). If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)



# From the governors

## Parent View – sharing your perspective

The governors, Mrs Pearce and her staff are always looking for ways to improve and your feedback is always welcomed.

One way to do this is using **Parent View** which is a system provided by Ofsted and is used by other parents when evaluating schools.



If you've never used Parent View before, it's quick and easy:

1. Navigate to the site by searching for "parent view" in your preferred search engine or typing <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> into your browser's address bar
2. Click the Give your views news button and follow the steps to create an account. (Note: all submissions are anonymous; the school doesn't receive your email address)

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

3. Search for St Mary's using the postcode SG8 7DB in the address field and click on "St Mary Roman Catholic Primary School" (or use this URL to go directly to the school's specific link):

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views/survey/25090>

4. Answer 12 straightforward questions, rating your answers on the scale shown to the left.

5. That's it – thank you for your feedback!

You can view the aggregated results of how other people have responded to the survey by clicking on "Parent view results" and searching for St Mary's again or using the following link:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/25090/current>

## ...and finally

All the governors of St Mary's would like to take the opportunity to wish our entire school community a joyful, safe, and healthy Christmas and we look forward with optimism that things will gradually start getting easier for all of us in 2021.

# December Newsletter

**Dear all,**

Thank you all so much for all of your contributions, purchases and support for our various endeavours this term. Thank you, also, for your patience with what must seem like endless correspondence and requests at such a difficult time for everybody.

We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and look forward to organising some events for everyone to enjoy online and, hopefully, in person, in the new year.

As ever, if you have any ideas or would like to lend you support, please drop us an [email](#), or send us a message via our [Facebook](#) page.

Best Wishes

The Friends



## Bank Details

Please use the **correct reference** and your child's surname if it is different to yours.

**Friends of St. Mary's  
(Business Account)**

**18485060**

**30-98-90**

## Christmas Activity Books

We still have lots of Christmas Activity Books for sale - a bargain at just **£5!** The books have something for everyone, including puzzles, recipes and Christmas crafts.

If you would like a copy (or more), please drop us an email ([friendsofstmarysroyston@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmarysroyston@gmail.com)) with your child's name and class included and transfer £5 per book to the Friends account with the reference **'Xmas Bk'**. Those who have already ordered will receive their book very soon.



## 100 Club Results for November

Julia Pearce & Sharon O'Toole	Nov-20	Prize	
1st prize	28	Alex Norton	£24.25
2nd prize	53	Ashley Cartwright	£14.55
3rd prize	97	Rachel Reeve	£9.70



## Christmas Crafts

Christmas Crafts are still for sale. Please pass the correct money to your child's teacher in an envelope. As always, you can also pay via bank transfer, with '**Craft**' as the reference.

Year Group	Craft	Price
Nursery	Scented tree decoration	£ 2
Reception	Epic Monthly Calendar	£ 4
Year 1	Painted Salt Dough Hand Tree Decoration	£ 2
Year 2	Hand sewn tree decorations	£2.50
Year 3	Hand painted Ceramic Baubles	£ 3
Year 4	Watercolour Snow Globes	£ 3
Year 5	3d Twine ball tree decoration	£ 2
Year 6	Homemade sweets in hand-crafted box.	£3

## Amazon Smile

A reminder to all doing any last minute Christmas shopping on Amazon that, if you make your purchase through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose "Friends of St Marys (Bassingbourn)", Amazon will donate 0.5% of every eligible purchase to the Friends.

## Outstanding Raffle Money

We still have some money outstanding for raffle tickets. If you returned the ticket stubs without cash, please ensure you make the correct transfer to the Friends account, with the reference '**Raffle**'. Tickets are £1 each.



## Advent Windows

We hope you have all been enjoying the advent windows and thank all of those who are taking part and producing such beautiful and creative displays. They really are bringing some much-needed Christmas cheer to Royston.

