



St Mary's News

Friday 17th December 2021

Autumn 7

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the final Newsletter of 2021.

We have had a successful term in spite of all the health issues we have faced. I thought I would take this opportunity to look back at some of our achievements this term. In September we were delighted to welcome a bumper number of grandparents to our celebration of their role. It was so successful we had to use both the Parish Hall and the School Hall to accommodate everyone! The children read their memories and prayers beautifully and the grandparents were provided with tea and cake.

We also welcomed our new Early Years children in September and they have settled in very quickly. I was very impressed by their singing and dancing in the Nativity this year and their growing confidence. Because we only have 33 pupils in Early Years the children are benefiting from more individual attention and their skills and independence and developing rapidly. Many parents have commented how much they enjoy sharing in the learning via the Tapestry app and we will continue to use this in 2022.

At the beginning of October we were visited by Diocesan inspectors who evaluated our RE teaching, worship and Catholic life. Having looked through books, observed lessons, spoken to governors, parents and children they declared that St Mary's provided an outstanding Catholic education for the children. We were delighted with the outcome and will continue to make sure that the Catholic ethos remains at the heart of our school. In the same month our Year 6 children managed to visit PGL for some outdoor adventurous activities. They grew in confidence and resilience and impressed all the adults with their behaviour and thoughtfulness.

The Families and Staff Association (FSA) pulled out all the stops this year to ensure the children had some wonderful events to enjoy and money was raised for the school in the process. The discos were very popular and the pop-up shops and Christmas raffle gave the children the opportunity to experience the Christmas spirit without a formal fair. Our huge gratitude goes to all those involved including our wonderful office team here in school.

We are already planning ahead for the spring term and will be launching a new phonics strategy for Early Years and key stage 1 in the New Year so watch this space! In the meantime I hope you and your family have a fantastic Christmas and New Year.

With best wishes

Mr Edgington, Headteacher.

Mass times this Christmas at Our Lady of Sorrows Church:

- 24th December - 5.00 pm
- 25th December – Midnight, 8.00 am and 10.00 am

Raffle Winners!

We pulled our Grand Christmas Raffle live on our Facebook page yesterday afternoon. It is still available to view for anyone who would like to.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated gifts, bought and sold tickets and helped arrange the prizes!

Here were our top 10 prize winners...

10. £30 LJ Hair voucher, £10 Karizma Nails Voucher and Hamper – Sharon M
9. 2 Free Ice Skating and Hamper – Edward A
8. £25 Shopping Voucher – Zac W
7. £35 Flowers at Walberton Village Florist – Mrs Brown
6. 2 Children Free at Drusilla's Park – Lexi B
5. 2 Children Free at Fishers Farm – Gabriel S
4. A Year's supply of Ice Cream at Pink's Parlour – Toby L
3. A Christmas Tree – Jasmine K
2. Handmade Christmas Cake – Alice S
1. £100 Cash – Jasmine K

Winner of our Super Star Seller competition and a £10 voucher is Lucy T in Ocean, well done!

Housepoints Update!

Here are the final housepoints for this year...

St Francis – 2635

St John Bosco – 2002

St Catherine - 1903

St Bernadette – 1311

School Cinema Trip

This week, we took the whole school on a trip to Bognor Picturedrome to see a lovely Christmas film about a boy who sets out on an extraordinary adventure in the snowy north to find his father and comes across a legendary city of elves.

Here's what the children had to say about it:

On Monday, our school went to the cinema to watch a boy called Christmas. The film was great and we really enjoyed it. The drinks and the popcorn were good. Overall the film was amazing!

Oliwia & Lucy, Year 6

Wintershall

On Wednesday 15th December, a group of Year 5/6 children went to Wintershall where they could see a real life Nativity.

We saw when Mary found out she was having a baby called Jesus, to seeing the visitors coming to the stable. We even saw real animals including donkeys, sheep, pigs and dogs, and even a real baby!

Sadly the day ended but everyone really enjoyed Wintershall. There is also an Easter show that is as fun as this. Overall we rate our experience 10/10.

Aarna & Zofia, Year 6.

Pop-Up Shops

A huge thank you to our FSA who organised and ran the Pop-up Shop and stalls this week. All their hard work was absolutely worth it and it was a great success!

'The pop-up shop was a small shop where you can buy presents from your family. You had a number which showed you what bag of sweets/chocolate you had. One section you could get sweets and chocolate and the other you could get presents for family members'

Bradley & Allister, Year 6

We would love to celebrate Etta in Seagull class who has been very busy raising money with her mum via friends and family to enable them to make some amazing donations to a few of our local Charities.

This week, Etta has been delivering Her donations to Bognor Foodbank, My Sister's House, Stone Pillow and Family Support Work, including 128 selection boxes and hot chocolate cones for the Family Support Work Christmas Party.

What a wonderful thing to do, thank you Etta!



Have a wonderful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to School on Tuesday 4th January 2022.