



St Mary's Catholic First School  
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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents

We have had a lovely week at St Mary's, enjoying our daily Advent prayers and challenges. Thank you for sending in photos and emails of your children completing the daily challenges.

Super effort from a Year 3 pupil:



The classes received their Elf in a balloon on Tuesday and have been enjoying activities. Each class has given their Elf a name, they are:

Haycorns - Stripy  
Reception – Rainbow  
Year 1 – Eric  
Year 2 – Pom Pom  
Year 3 – Elvis  
Year 4 – Elfis

This week each class has been looking at and exploring different books as part of our book fair, children may come home with a wish list for books they found interesting and might like and we will send you separately information about our book fair and how you can order books for your children.

Goulds Garden Centre kindly donated a lovely Christmas tree to St Mary's this week and have given us a colouring competition sheet to send home, this will be coming home with your child today. Children can colour in the Christmas tree template, using their imagination and you can either hand it into the Garden Centre or send a photo of their colouring to their Facebook messenger. The competition closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 pm and a winner chosen.

We've also had our winners of the Eco-bug Competition, thank you to the members of the eco committee for choosing the winners, they are:

Reception - Oscar

Year 1 - Will

Year 2 - Neve W

Year 3 - Parshwa

Year 4 – Jack

### **Sleep on the Floor for a Night**

You received by email on Tuesday with information about "Sleep on the Floor" for the Catholic Children's Society, if you have any photos, please do email these through to the school office. Well done to one of our Year 4 pupils for taking part:



### **Help to raise funds for St Mary's – easyfundraising**

Thank you to those parents who have registered on easyfundraising, if you click on browser donation reminder when you register, every time you go to a website, they will let you know if a donation is available.

We have already received some donations this week which will in turn be spent on equipment for the children at St Mary's.

If you haven't yet register, please do so if you can, there is no cost to you and we could receive donations from a huge number of retailers including Tesco's, Amazon, various sportswear sites, ebay, asos, M&S, Just Eat, Interflora, etc. – lots and lots.

The link to the site is <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysfirstschool/>

Many thanks if you are happy and able to support us in this way.

## Winter mini reading challenge from Dorset Libraries

### Calling All Reading Heroes - Winter Mini Challenge in December!

This winter Dorset Library Services are very excited to team up with The Reading Agency award-winning publisher Knights Of to run an Everyone Is A Hero Challenge to celebrate heroes in all their forms!

- Start your Challenge by visiting [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk) If you took part in the Summer Reading Challenge you can use your existing account. If you need to create an account there's a new streamlined sign-up where parents can add multiple children easily! They hope this will make a real difference to new users.
- Take part by reading any books (including eBooks, audiobooks and e-comics) of your choice (they are suggesting 3 or more), then rate and review them.
- Books added to the website during the six-week Mini Challenge period will count towards unlocking special rewards including a certificate and a virtual badge.
- The website will also feature activities, recommendations for great winter reads, and competitions.
- If you're stuck for ideas for reading check out the Book Sorter, which has over 1.3 million peer-to-peer recommendations. Or why not try something from this [fabulous reading list](#) - from friendship, to inventing to fun, this selection is full of heroes that inspire, challenge and push the definition of what it means to be a hero.
- Keep track of your reading with this downloadable [reading record](#)
- Download your certificate when you've completed your [Challenge](#)

### Patchwork Parenting

Please find here a link to a short survey from Patchwork Parenting who would like to know more about the feelings of parents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what they at PATCHWORK can offer in terms of support.

Patchwork Parenting programmes provide opportunities for parents and carers to support each other and, with the help of a trained facilitator, build on their own strengths to understand and enjoy their life as a family.

If you are able to complete this survey for Patchwork Parenting, they would appreciate this, the link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>

### Community Share Charity

Community Share have been providing food boxes to vulnerable people and families throughout the year. Set up during the first lockdown they have helped support 2000+ individuals. They are now hoping to provide 170+ boxes to people for Christmas. They have launched a Christmas post card competition. It is suitable for ages 0-14.

Design a card to illustrate a Community Christmas. Scan or photograph your design and email to [hello@community-share.org](mailto:hello@community-share.org) their website is [www.community-share.org](http://www.community-share.org)

## **Bike it Bear**

Last week's winner of the Bike it Bear was **Brooke** and this week's winner is **Ana**

I hope you have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely

*P. Fearn*

Mrs Paula Fearn  
**Head Teacher**