

St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter



10th December 2021



Dear Parents

The children have been enjoying our daily Advent Prayers & Carols during the week and have also enjoyed taking home our miniature Mary & Joseph for the evening.

On Tuesday, we had over 100 of our children who loved coming back to school for the Christmas bedtime stories; the classrooms were beautifully decorated and there was a magical feel.

Thank you to two amazing Dads who volunteered this week to put up our backdrop, the children will now be able to perform their Christmas songs with an even better stage.



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Two of our pupils delivered our 'Christmas wishes' to the residents of Culliford House. These were decorated wishes from our children which will decorate the Culliford House' Christmas tree.



Year 4 also drew lovely nativity scenes which will be hung up around Culliford House for the residents to look at & enjoy. Here are a sample of them.



Issues with emails – we have had some issues with some emails not being delivered to parents. We are looking at ways of resolving this issue. We always send the newsletter email on a Friday, do let us know if you do not receive this on any Friday. Our letters/newsletters are also uploaded to the website, under Weekly News for you to look at.

PTA Christmas Shop

Thank you for all the orders for the Christmas Shop.

If you have any unwanted 'new to you/unused' toys, books, etc. that could be used as gifts in the shop, please bring these in to the school office on Monday. We cannot take used or second hand items, just new items that you may not have used – many thanks.

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Eco News from St Mary's

Meet our new eco committee

Year 1 - Oscar and Violet

Year 2 - Oattie and Jack

Year 3 - Logan and Evie

Year 4 - Penny and Stirling



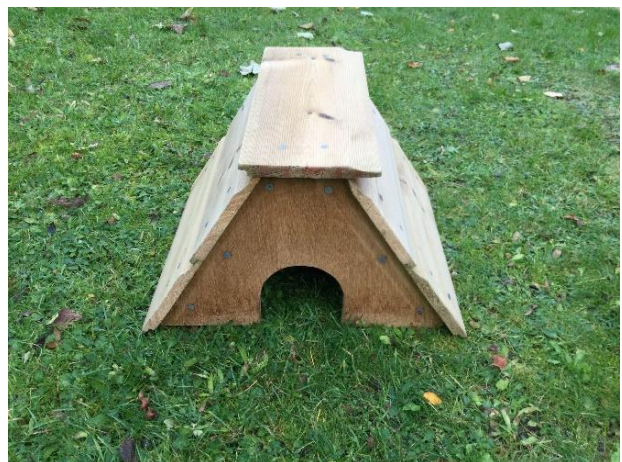
We have an energetic new eco committee and we have been meeting to talk about what they would like to do to make our school greener.

They are going to reintroduce our bug box to encourage children to study wildlife in our grounds, monitor how much energy we use each week and encourage everyone to reduce the amount we use. They are going to lead a litter project and we have talked about creating a mini pond in the spring.

We have 2 new compost bins with easy lift up lids. Violet and Emily are our current compost wardens to encourage us to put the right waste in the right bin.



We have many prickly visitors in the grounds of our school, so we have 2 new hedgehog homes tucked away in quiet places in the grounds to house them when it gets cold.

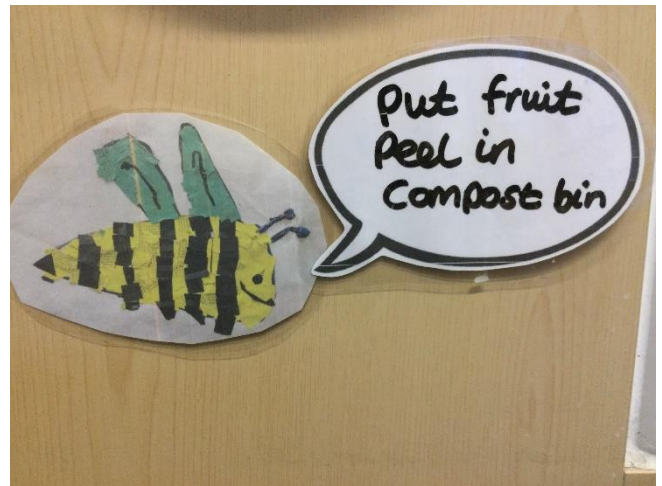


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This term we had a Laudato Si day in October. Kirsten Juniper came to visit from the Waste Partnership and talked to us about waste and recycling, we learned about what can be reused and recycled. The children hunted for bugs and learned about renewable energy. The school also collaborated to create a huge mural of an eye ahead of the Cop 26 summit in November as part of CAFOD's 'eyes of the world' initiative, to remind the world leaders that we were watching them and encouraging them to agree measures to tackle climate change for the future of our planet.



Our year group eco bugs have gone up around our classrooms to remind us how to be more eco-friendly every day, by recycling, keeping our pen lids on, turning off the lights when we leave the classroom and using less hand towels - in key stage 1 we learned to say "will one or two do?"



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We have just signed up to be a **Sustainable Palm Oil Champion**. We hope to become part of the first Sustainable Palm Oil County, helping to protect the rainforest and the wildlife that live there, but also supporting small farmers who produce palm oil sustainably. Palm oil is in so many products we buy, but many companies are now signing up to only use sustainable palm oil. 'Food Links', our lunch provider, has signed up and we will only buy food products that contain sustainable palm oil in school from now on. Many companies are joining the sustainable palm oil community. Tesco and Aldi have signed up, so all their own brand products contain sustainable palm oil and many other companies have signed up too. We are attaching a list of them for you to the newsletter email.



Watch this space...as we will be asking for help with lots of exciting outdoor projects in the New Year.

Easyfundraising

Thank you to all the parents who are helping with our school fundraising, we now have 49 supports & have raised a total of £107 so far. This will all go towards, equipment & resources for your children. If anyone else is able to sign up, this would be much appreciated.

Christmas is coming.....

We are looking forward to our final week of term next week, we have lots of lovely activities planned for the children:

- Our daily Advent prayers & carols
- The children will also take part in an interactive Cinderella pantomime & for those taking part, the PTA Christmas shop during the week.
- Family Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church at 6pm on Monday
- Year 4 will be taking part in the Journey to the Stable during the afternoon on Tuesday at the United Church in Dorchester
- Food Links Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday, followed by a visit from Picklebottom the Elf with entertainment & treats for the children

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- Various parents & staff are continuing to tell the children all about their Christmas traditions from around the World
- Christmas Party day is on Thursday 16th, **children are invited to come to school wearing Christmas/party clothes. There will be lots of fun activities during the day**
- On our final day, Friday 17th, the children will take part in a carol service.

The children looked very festive today in their Christmas Jumpers, thank you for the kind donations for 'Save the Children'.

The children will finish school at our normal pick up time on Friday 17th December.

We are then back at St Mary's on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

Have a good weekend

P. Fearn

Paula Fearn
Headteacher