



# St Mary's School Newsletter

29 November 2019

Dear All,



Advent is almost upon us, and it's Deco Day. Well done to Year 5 for their sensational poetry performances – 2 very fine retellings of Red Riding Hood – great job, Miss Guillaume and class! Year 6 have won the trophy for most improved awareness of Fire Safety, with two children scoring 100% - great job! Thanks to Miss Rogers and our parent volunteers who have organised and coached our football and netball teams – the children are doing very well, and are outstanding representatives of the school.



Thank you for bearing with us this last couple of weeks as we have had lots of illness and absence. We have done the best we can to keep classes going with as much continuity as possible, but I am aware that some classes have had a lot of change. Hopefully we are over the worst and classes will have a more consistent experience with their class teachers!

## Urgent: Chicken Pox

We have a couple of families that need to be aware of whether or not we have chicken pox in school – if anyone in your family has come down with it please can you let us know so that we can pass it on. (The information – not the chicken pox!)

## The Giving Tree

Every year we run a Giving Tree. This year we are collecting food for Age UK (Jersey Branch) and the Jersey Animal Shelter. Our Christmas tree in the foyer is decorated with tags with the name of an item that can be bought and put under the tree. Do not wrap these up, please, as the charities find it tricky to manage once labels fall off! If you are able to donate something please ask your children to bring home a tag, and then put the item under the Christmas Tree. These will be collected by the charities in the last week of term. We try to recycle the labels each year, so when you have bought in an item, please can you give the tags to Miss Boydens in the office for safekeeping! Thank you for your support!



## Story Sacks

Miss Guillaume, our English subject leader, is setting families a challenge this Christmas to build a story sack. Story Sacks are bags of resources that can help you tell a story, making it more memorable and hooking the children into thinking and talking about the story and the characters more deeply. There are loads of ways to resource them – sometimes from things that you already have at home, or things that you make or things you buy – and sometimes a bit of all three. Watch out for Miss Guillaume's challenge information coming to you soon on Parentmail!



## **Parent Survey**

Thank you to those of you who have returned your parent survey. Not only does it help us know what is going well and what needs improving, your thoughts and ideas are helping us set the direction for the school for the next year. I am hoping that we will kick this off with getting our PTA up and running in January – there have been a number of you who have said you'd be interested, which is great. (I spent a long time trying to persuade people that it should be called a PSA as it is a Parent and Staff Association, not just Parents and Teachers –however, I've given up – let's just call it a PTA and assume that everyone understands that by teachers, we mean all staff!)



## **Parking**



I know you must all go into a red mist just hearing the word parking at the moment, but please do not double park at the Church Car Park. However, if you do, please show respect for the staff and parents who need to leave the car park promptly by getting back to your car as quickly as possible and moving it. I realise it is a tough job to find somewhere to park some mornings and afternoons, but please be considerate. If you end up being a few minutes late and have to sign the book, then put down traffic issues as the reason for lateness, so that we know that parking was bad on that day, and we can build up a picture of what's going on for you all as you try to get to/ leave school.

Thank you for bearing with us and the difficulties of the build. To be fair to the builders, Camerons, they are making every effort to minimise the disruption, and have been very accommodating when we have had to ask them to re-arrange what they are doing so that the learning isn't disrupted. Let's keep looking ahead to our new school facilities in 2021!

## **Sniffles and snuffles**

It is the season where children will be getting snuffly, and maybe grumpy and tired as we go on towards the end of term, as Christmas excitement takes hold. Please can you make sure your child comes in with a coat and sensible shoes – and a hat and gloves if the weather gets colder. Please do let your child's class teacher know if there is anything that might be affecting them so that we can keep an extra eye on them when they are under the weather.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Nativity and/ or Carol Service over the next few weeks!

Kind regards,  
Maria Steg

