

“Together we love to learn and learn to love”

St. Mary's CE Infant School

Newsletter

No. 18 - 29th January 2021



Dear Families,

I want to thank you all for supporting your children and your commitment to St. Mary's at this difficult time.

As we come to the end of week four of the Spring Term, we are all looking forward to lighter evenings and warmer days where we can enjoy getting outdoors and feeling brighter. We are hopeful that there are better days ahead for all of you and that we can all be back to school at some point in the next half term. Please enjoy this piece of [music](#) with your families to encourage you as you keep persevering.

Here is the link for next week's collective worship from Rev'd. Sally Wright about Candlemass and the story of Jesus' presentation in the Temple at Jerusalem. Click [here](#) to view it; it will be available to see from 8am on Monday 1st February.

Each week our newsletters will include a message to the children and their families from a member of staff. They are all missing your children and want to say a big hello. Today, our message is from Mrs. Fox.

Kind regards,
Claire Doland
Acting Headteacher



Messages & Notices

Half Term

School will be closed to all children over the half term holidays and there will be no remote learning or live catch-up sessions over half term.

Return to School

After half term, schools will continue to be closed for all children except those of critical workers and vulnerable children. We hope to return to normal at some point in the next half term and are preparing for reopening, whenever that may be.

Remote Learning

This week we introduced our live catch-up sessions for the children who have not been in school. These were much enjoyed by our staff and we really hope the children enjoyed chatting to their teachers and some of their friends. These will continue on a weekly basis until children come back to school.

Message from Mrs. Fox

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well. I am really missing seeing you all. Did you enjoy the snow last weekend? My children and I built an enormous snowman in my garden and my dog loved playing in it too - until his paws became too cold!

I hear you are all working hard with your school work at home - well done! I think you are all amazing!

*Take care,
Love Mrs. Fox*



*The Collective Worship theme for this half term is **Perseverance**.*

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Messages & Notices

Grief and Bereavement

We are aware that at this time a number of our families are facing difficult and challenging circumstances, including the death of family members. We would encourage you to access any of the organisations listed below, as they can offer you age-appropriate resources as well as support.

Child Bereavement UK (0800 028 8840) or email support@childbereavement.org

Cruse Bereavement Care (0808 808 1677) or email info@cruse.org.uk

Grief Encounter (0808 802 0111) or email contact@griefencounter.org.uk

Hope Again (0808 808 1677) or email hopeagain@cruse.org.uk

Winston’s Wish (0808 802 0021) or email info@winstonswish.org

Please do also contact school staff to discuss any ongoing concerns, where this is helpful for you.

Additional Support

If you feel that you, or any member of your family, is in need of some additional support, please do reach out to professional organisations that can provide advice or resources specific to your needs.

Family Lives – 0808 800 222 Family support for all challenges and issues experienced as a family.

Young Minds – 0808 802 5544 Supporting children’s mental health.

Oxfordshire Mind – 01865 247788 Supporting mental health across the age ranges.

Childline – 0800 1111 Support for young people.

Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247

Samaritans – 116 123 If you need to talk.

MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) – 0345 050 7666 for advice regarding concerns about a child.

West Witney Food Bank – 01993 890000 In an emergency always dial 999.

Mrs. Doland is the Designated Safeguarding Lead at St. Mary’s. You can continue to contact her if you have any concerns about a child’s safety or welfare.