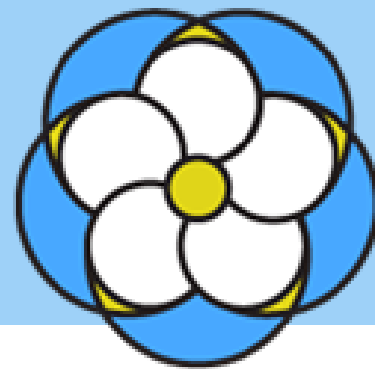


St Mary's Church of England Junior Academy

Newsletter 11 – 1st December 2023



Showcase Event

We would like to invite parents into school to come and complete some Christmas crafts with their child/ren. If you are unable to attend you are welcome to send in another relative to come and support your child.

The aim of this is to welcome you into our school whilst completing some fun activities with your child/ren and have a chance to chat to all of our fantastic staff.

The activities will begin at **2.15pm** and these are the dates for each year group:

Friday 8th December for children in Years 3, 4 and Robin Class

Friday 15th December for children in Years 5 and 6

If you have another child who attends Manor Field we will let you leave with your child at 2.50pm so you are not late to collect them. It would be great to see you!



CELEBRATING LEARNING

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Week ending 1st December

Robin – Reece H

3 Skylark – Haddyjatou K

4 Kingfisher – Ollie McK

4 Woodpecker – Chevy B

5 Avocet – Thomas F

5 Curlew – Amari D

6 Falcon – Baran K

6 Red Kite – Bea M

Dates for your Diary

1st Dec – Long Stratton Community Event (St Mary's Choir singing behind Netherton Restaurant 5pm)

5th Dec – Yr 3 visiting Mayfields Care Home to do Christmas crafts with residents

8th Dec – Yr 3, 4 and Robin Class Showcase Event 2.15pm in Hall

11th Dec – SEND Parents Meetings 3.30pm – 5.00pm

13th Dec – SEND Parents Meetings 3.30pm – 5.00pm

15th Dec – Yr 5 & 6 Showcase Event 2.15pm in Hall





Class Learning Blog – 6 Red Kite Class

Red Kites have had a wonderful Autumn term and have fully embraced the year 6 curriculum with enthusiasm and love for learning.

In English, we are exploring the text *The Journey* which is a beautifully illustrated book that explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. We have started planning and creating our own versions of the stories with a range of settings from a cosy country cottage to a boat house on the shimmering sands of the Mediterranean Sea!



In maths, Red Kites are building on their previous knowledge of fractions and can now confidently order and compare fractions and are beginning to add and subtract fractions accurately. There has been noticeable progress in Red Kite's deepening their mathematical thinking this term and we are now able to verbalise our working method and use mathematical terminology effectively. Well done Red Kites!

In PSHE, as part of our health and well-being unit we have been discussing how we can keep our minds and bodies healthy. We have focused on relaxation and why it is important and explored a number of relaxation techniques, here are some to try at home!

[Guided Meditation for Children | Your Secret Treehouse | Relaxation for Kids - YouTube](#)
[Progressive Muscle Relaxation \(PMR\) Exercise for Kids and Teens - YouTube](#)

Miss Minister

*Nurture. Respect. Responsible. Community.
Compassion. Courage.*



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Isla W, one of our Year 6 pupils who has just been awarded the Overall Achievement Award from ARTS.



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Christmas Card Postbox

The Christmas Card Postbox will be available in Reception from Monday 4th December. Children can bring in their Christmas Cards for other pupils or staff and post them in the Post Box. They will then be delivered at lunchtime each day. Please ensure that they have the full name of the person they are intended for along with their class to help us to deliver them to the correct person. Thank you



Helping your Child at Home

Thank you to all the parents who came to parents evening. We hope you found it informative. Here are some excellent websites we would like to share with you so you can continue to support your child at home too.

Supporting your child in Maths –

- * TTRockstars <https://trockstars.com>
- * White Rose App (free to download)
- * BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z826n39>
- * Maths is Fun website <https://www.mathsisfun.com>

Supporting your child in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling –

- * CPG <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/.../ks2-sats-online-10-minute...> (tests are free)
- * Phonics Comics - <https://phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/comics.html> (free to play)
- * Grammar lessons - <https://www.thenational.academy/.../english-grammar.../units> (free to access)

Year 6 parents –

You can buy these CPG books to help with SATs preparation - <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/.../incredible-ks2-books-for-sats>

If you would like any further information on how you can support your child please email the school office.

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SEND Family Support Signposting Guide

Find out more about the support available for families of children with neurodevelopmental differences and/or additional needs in Norfolk (see attached poster).

- General advice and support
- Support for my child/young person in school
- Support for myself and my family
- Support for my child with sleep difficulties
- Support for my child/young person with mental health difficulties
- Support for my child/young person in mental health crisis
- Information about the neurodevelopmental condition assessment pathway
- Support with Education Health and Care Plan processes

Attendance

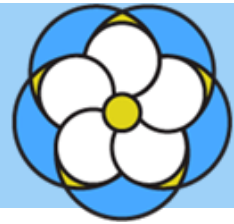
Every day at school adds up, so make the most of it.

As part of the national 'Everyday Counts' attendance campaign, we will continue to monitor attendance very closely. If you need support on this matter please make an appointment to see Mrs Dale our pastoral officer or visit www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Well Done to the following top three classes for their attendance during the week 20th – 24th November 2023

6 Red Kite	98.71%
6 Falcon	98.15%
3 Skylark	98%

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St Mary's PTA

Our PTA started up in February this year making us relatively new.

We are a small group of volunteer parents and school staff who work together to raise extra funds for the school through a range of fundraising initiatives and events.

As a PTA, in the last nine months we have...

- ◇ Organised two school discos, one in March which was the first event we ran as a PTA, and our Autumn disco last month.
- ◇ Set the "5p Challenge" which ran between March and May.
- ◇ Organised and ran monthly Cake and Craft Markets. Each year group had their opportunity and these began in April, running through the summer.
- ◇ Organised and run a refreshments stall during the Sports Day in June. This was very popular, especially the doughnuts!
- ◇ Held a stall at the town's King's Coronation Event.
- ◇ Organised the Christmas Fayre which was held on 17th November.

So far, using the money raised...

☆ The winning class of the "5p Challenge" were given a cash prize and were able to decide what to spend this on. They decided to use it to buy some wet play classroom games.

☆ The PTA organised and paid for a substantial part of the fantastic Leaver's Celebration for our Year 6 "Class of '23". This was a disco with chip van and an ice-cream van - both very popular!

☆ We have purchased play equipment for the lower school playground. Once decided what will be bought, it is planned that an equal amount of money will also be spent on something for the upper school.

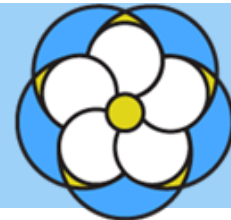
Many thanks to all parents, carers and staff who have taken the time to help organise and run these events with us, we couldn't run them without you.

We fully understand we live in a world where everyone's time is precious, but getting involved, no matter how much or how little, really will make a huge difference to our children's time spent at St Mary's Junior, so all interest is welcome, whatever help it is you can give. Please see Mrs Dale on the school gate or contact the school office if you are able to spare some time to help at events and/or join a meeting. These will vary in date and time to try and make them accessible to all.

We also have a Facebook page, please take a look and follow us at: **PTA for St Mary's Junior School**

If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, please email the school office, marking your email for the attention of the PTA.

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Dates for the year ahead:

01/12/23	Long Stratton Community Event 4pm – late (St Mary's choir singing at event at 5pm)
08/12/23	Year 3, 4 and Robin Class Parents invited in to Open Classrooms 2.15 – 3.00pm
11/12/23	SEND Parent/Teacher/Pupil Meetings to review Autumn SEN Support Plans (3.30 – 5.30pm)
13/12/23	SEND Parent/Teacher/Pupil Meetings to review Autumn SEN Support Plans (3.30 – 5.30pm)
15/12/23	Year 5 & 6 Parents invited in to Open classrooms 2.15 – 3.00pm
19/12/23	Year 3 & 4 Nativity Performance at 9.15am
19/12/23	Christmas Lunch (details to follow) Christmas Jumper Day (donations to be made on Parentmail)
20/12/23	Year 5 & 6 Parents invited to our Christmas Carols around the tree at 2.30pm
20/12/22	End of Term (School Closes at normal time)
21/12/22 - 03/01/24	Christmas Holiday
04/01/24	Back to School
19/02/24 – 23/02/24	Half Term
26/02/24	Back to School
28/03/24 – 12/04/24	Easter Holidays
15/04/24	Back to School
22/04/24	SENDCo from Long Stratton High School meeting with Yr 6 SEND Pupils re transition
06/05/24	May Bank Holiday
27/05/24 – 31/05/24	Half Term
03/06/24	Back to School
19/07/24	Last day of Term

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www.stmaryscoejunior.co.uk