



Message from Mrs Weaver

After our busiest day of the year so far, Friday turned out to be a Fabulous Friday! It began with a thought provoking assembly from Ermin reflecting on Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si where the children gave powerful messages on the effects of climate change and the need for us to take action. They [produced a short film](#) based on the famous song by Louis Armstrong 'What a wonderful world' and I have to say—it was emotional, so much so, that many were in tears! As the assembly came to a close, the whole school - dressed in green, took part in our sponsored walk around the school site which took us up to lunchtime. There was no time to rest on Friday because in the afternoon, the hall was transformed into an art gallery where every class had an opportunity to view what others had created and if you were able to visit us, I hope you enjoyed the high quality artwork whilst listening to Mrs Kinder (who taught at St Mary's in 1985) playing her harp. And didn't the Eco-club do a brilliant job with their 'green' cakes; next time they said they would make double as they didn't quite realise how popular they would be. All in all, it was a wonderful way to wrap up a busy busy week. I would like to offer a really big thank you to: all the staff who worked incredibly hard; the children for rising to all the challenges they faced; our talented visitors who gave high quality experiences; and to you the families who gave so generously in our fundraising efforts. As at Friday, we have raised **£3,880** towards our orchard and **£309** for CAFOD. We will keep our fundraising channels open until we plant the trees on the 4th of December. I hope **everyone** has a restful weekend as we turn our focus towards Christmas... Take care and God bless.

This week's Gospel Reading

In this celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, children will watch a storybook film about good and bad kings, and learn that it is only when Jesus is king of our hearts that we can truly experience the joy, peace, mercy and love that He brings. We also learn that our hearts can be 'ruled' by different influences but Jesus is the king of our hearts.

Key Scripture from today's Gospel

'Pilate said, "So you are a king!" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born for this: to tell people about the truth...And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."' John 18: 33-37

Parish News

Stay in touch with what is going on at St Mary's Parish.

[Click here to read their newsletter.](#)

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew (18:20)

Dates for this week

Monday 22nd Nov Flu consent deadline
Thursday 25th Nov Y6 parents/residential 5pm
Friday 26th Nov First Holy Communion
Celebration Y4/5/6 9am

Dates for next week

Thursday 2nd Dec Flu immunisations
Friday 3rd Dec Malmesbury Assembly
FOSM Donation Day

[Calendar \(st-marys.swindon.sch.uk\)](http://st-marys.swindon.sch.uk)

Love Belief Service Truth Mercy Peace



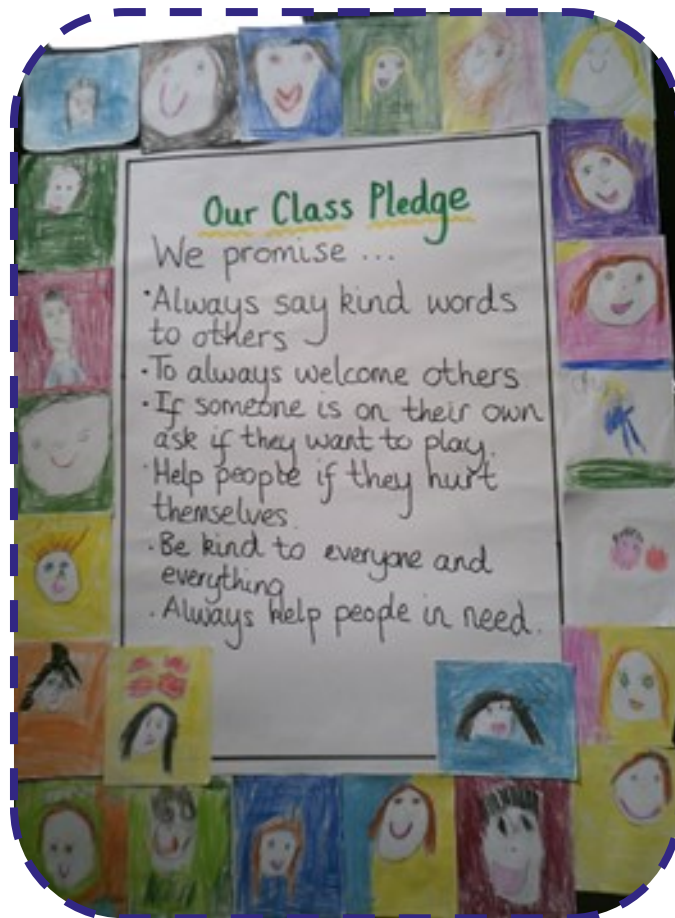


Anti-bullying Week

The children kicked off Antibullying Week by wearing **odd socks** to school. They really enjoyed showing their odd socks to their peers and discussing how it is okay to be different and how we are all unique. Throughout the week each class discussed what the word 'bullying' means as well as sharing the schools child friendly antibullying policy. This highlights what children should do if they feel they or someone they know is being bullied. The children also thought about how '**One Kind Word**' can have a positive impact on someone's day as well as listening to 'Andy and the Odd Socks' song. Each class also created their very own classroom pledge on ways to show kindness to others, this will be displayed in the classrooms for children to refer to throughout the year.



Our Class Pledges





Our Sponsored Walk was a HUGE success...



CAFOD Fundraising

We dressed in Green and the eco-club made green cakes and combined we raised **£309** for **CAFOD**. Thank you for your support.

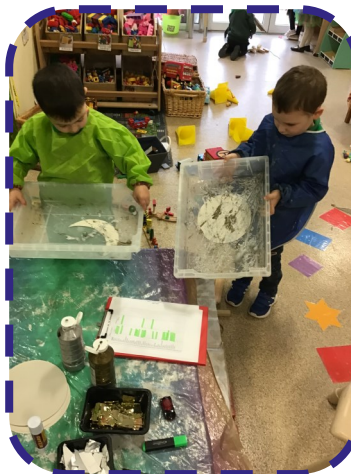
Orchard Fundraising

Our sponsored walk lasted for hours and miles were walked... Hopefully, everyone slept well on Friday night. We decided to stay off the field as Steve (and his digger) was still hard at work, however, we found a very long route around the perimeter of the school. The amount of money that we have raised so far is phenomenal and we are so grateful to our school community for sharing this project amongst family and friends. We have raised a whopping **£3,880**. We have now purchased the trees and these will be arriving in two weeks, just in time for our tree planting weekend on Saturday 4th Dec. More information about this weekend will follow.





Based on St Francis, our Care for Creation Arts Week was a sight to behold...



Early Phase





Lower Phase





Middle Phase





Upper Phase





Art Exhibition





Boys Football Team get through to 1/4 finals



PE Kits

At St Mary's we pride ourselves on looking really smart by following our school uniform policy. Since lockdown, we made the decision to allow pupils to come into school wearing their PE kits for a number of really good reasons. We asked that you follow the uniform policy and children wear their coloured t-shirt with black leggings/tracksuit and top. I would like to remind parents that sweatshirts with large logos or designs (e.g. Harry Potter) are not inline with our school policy and should not be worn.

I am pleased to announce that our school uniform online shop now stocks the new PE sweatshirts priced at £8.25; the house name is on the reverse. If you are unable to buy a sweatshirt at this time, then your child should wear their **blue school jumper** over the top of their house t-shirt instead; this enables all children to look smart. Please ensure all uniform is labelled. Thank you for supporting the school.

[ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - SCHOOL UNIFORM](https://www.re-schooluniform.co.uk)

[SHOP Products \(re-schooluniform.co.uk\)](https://www.re-schooluniform.co.uk)





What has your child been learning in Religious Education this week?

EYFS have been learning about an important person called Carlo Acutis who is set to become the first millennial Saint.

Lower Phase have been learning about a number of different Saints including St Francis of Assisi, the Saint of animals and nature, and Saint Therese of Lisieux who taught people that following God was not about the great things we do but the small things we do with love.

In Middle Phase, the children have been learning about the prayer of St Teresa of Avila and how we can use our hands, feet and eyes to live out Jesus' Mission on Earth.

In Upper Phase, the children have been analysing Jesus' view of prayer as well as discussing the question 'Does prayer work?'

Whole School Overview of Pupil Voice in RE

As part of our RE Monitoring this term, we spoke to the children and asked them their views on Religious Education at St Mary's. We would like to share some of their thoughts with you:

What do you like learning about in RE?

"Learning about Lent; learning about love and hope; parables and stories like the Lost Sheep and the Good Samaritan; good and bad choices; prayers; miracles of Jesus; liturgical wheel; Epiphany; learning about Pope Francis and his statements; Laudato Si; different saints; beginning and end of Jesus' life; other faiths; relating my life to Jesus; people being transformed, what we do in Mass; the Crucifixion; school values; using scripture; circumstance, action and intention; Kingdom of God; different perspectives on the Bible e.g. creation; Jesus Baptism; Kingdom of parables; Seven Sacraments; learning about the Holy Spirit and analysing artwork."

What do you like best about your RE lessons?

"Enjoy making focal points; answering questions by making links; using drama and role play; wordles that help me with my vocabulary; learning about ethics and decision making; using art to inspire us and our ideas; learning about the different stories in the Bible; discussions and sharing our thoughts and explaining our ideas."

How do you know how well you are doing in RE?

"Our teachers respond in our books and tell us what to improve on; we get verbal feedback and we have to respond to our teacher's questions; the marking ladders tell us how we feel about our learning using metacognition colours; my teacher tells us how brilliant we are and help us to improve."

What is your child learning in Relationship and Health Education next week?

Lower Phase KS1 Module 1, Unit 2 - Clean and Healthy

Middle Phase LKS2 Module 1, Unit 2 - What is Puberty? (Y4 only)

Upper Phase UKS2 Module 1, Unit 2 - Spots and Sleep

Parent Portal

Please click on the links below to find out more information

[Online Parent Portal – Enter \(tentenresources.co.uk\)](https://www.tentenresources.co.uk)

Username: **st-marys-sn2** Password: **rose-red**

I HAVE COME
SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE
Life
& HAVE IT
TO THE FULL
JOHN 10:10



Women's Refuge Christmas Appeal/ Brighter Futures Winter ShoeBox Appeal

This year, as we approach Advent, our thoughts turn to how we can help those in need. With this in mind, our Chaplaincy Team are asking for donations and have chosen two charities that they wish to support; **Women's Refuge** and **Brighter Futures**.

Take care of God's creation. But above all, take care of people in need.

Pope Francis

Brighter Futures is the registered charity for the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. They are launching a 'Winter Shoebox Appeal' this Christmas. Do you want to brighten someone's Christmas?

Turn a shoebox into something special and fill it with small items that can be given for patients in the hospital. The shoeboxes are for adult patients who are staying in hospital over the festive period. Below are a list of items you could include within the boxes.

- * Christmas Card, chocolate and sweets, fluffy socks (non slip), hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, pens and writing pads, puzzle books, small games, herbal tea bags, eye mask, ear plugs, hand cream, lip balm, compact mirror, adult colouring books/pens, books/magazines, mini packs of biscuits, shower cap, mints, tissues, something festive!

They have very kindly asked that we **do not** include:

- * Sharp items such as scissors and nail clippers, alcohol, food that requires chilling or cooking, tinned food or perishable items.

If you would like to donate a filled shoebox, please drop them to the school by **Monday 6th December** and our children will take them up to the hospital.

Women's Refuge is a charity that provides life-saving and life-changing services to women and children escaping domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. Women's Refuge are asking for donations of the following items that could be used to support those in need:



- Women's gifts– socks, scarves, gloves, hats, books, pj's, dressing gowns, make up (no alcohol); Children's gifts– toys, books, puzzles suitable for 0-3 years; Gifts for teens 11-16 years– makeup, makeup brushes, hair brushes etc; Stationary– felt tips, colouring pencils, colouring books etc; New children's clothes (pj's, dressing gowns, slippers, socks, gloves, hats)

If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them to the school by **Monday 6th December**.





First Holy Communion

This weekend, our Year 4 children and a few of our Year 5/6 children are celebrating their First Holy Communion at St Mary's Church. We wish them and their families a very special day and we look forward to celebrating with them in school on Friday. Children are asked to bring in their special clothes and parents are welcome to stay for tea, coffee and cake.

Dates and Times for Nativities

To go ahead with our Christmas nativities and to keep us all as safe as possible, we have organised them as follows:

Tuesday 7th Dec 9:30am Y2 parents watch KS1 nativity

Tuesday 7th Dec 1:45pm Y1 parents watch KS1 nativity

Wednesday 8th Dec 2pm Nursery nativity/nursery parents

Thursday 9th Dec 9am EYFS sing-a-long/EYFS parents

Please make a note of this in your diaries and we will confirm arrangements closer to the time.

Thank you to these two wonderful children who arrived at school this week with a bag FULL of litter that they had collected on their journey to school. As you can see by the photograph—they were very surprised at how much was collected!



Who was awarded a certificate this week for putting our values into action?

Rejoice

in the Lord always;
again I will say,
Rejoice.

(Philippians 4:4)



Tricia Geyer

Lower Phase

Max
Jaycee-Mae
Alan
Arthur
Raphael
Evie-Rose
Nia
Rhys

Middle Phase

Erinna
Grace
Hannah
Cecilia

Upper Phase

Rebecca
Eryn
Isabel
Natalie
Joshua
Joywan
Noah
Ewan