



St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 7

15th December 2023

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4EU

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>

School Rules:

Be ready, Be respectful, Be safe

Tweet of the Week

"Love makes us happy not only in heaven but also here on earth. If we want to be truly happy, then let us learn to transform everything into love, offering to others our work and our time, speaking kindly words and doing good deeds. We can all do it!"

Pope Francis (@Pontifex)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks in school with Nativities, Christmas disco and Christmas Lunch. We are all feeling very festive as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas. In our collective worship this week we heard how we can get ready to welcome Jesus by making sure our hearts are full of love and care for other people and by not doing things that hurt others. Whether that's not saying unkind things or making sure we share. We can also make sure that we don't hurt others by taking care of the world so that it's a nice place for everyone to live.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Ensemble at 9am on 20th December in Church.

Warm Regards

Mrs Berry and Mrs Measham

Week Commencing 18th December 2023

Wed 20th Dec: Ensemble in Church at 9am

Parents/carers welcome

Week Commencing 1st January 2024

Children return to school on Thursday 4th January

No sports or reading clubs this week

Thurs 4th Jan: woodwind lessons recommence

Week Commencing 8th January 2024

All sports clubs except netball recommence

Mon 8th Jan: year 4 swimming lessons

Mon 8th Jan: violin lessons recommence

Tues 9th Jan: brass lessons recommence

Tues 9th Jan: Jigsaw dance club re-starts

Thurs 11th Jan: beginning of term mass in church at 2.30pm

Parents/carers welcome



SPORTS CLUBS SPRING TERM 2024

Mondays

Football Club (years 1, 2 & 3) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 8th January. This club is full.

Wednesdays

Netball Club (years 5 & girls) 3.30-4.15pm. First session 17th January.

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 boys) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 10th January.

Thursdays

Football Club (years 4, 5 & 6 girls) starts at 8am. First session 11th January.

Fridays

Multisports Club (years 1, 2 & 3) starts at 8am. First session 12th January. This club is full.

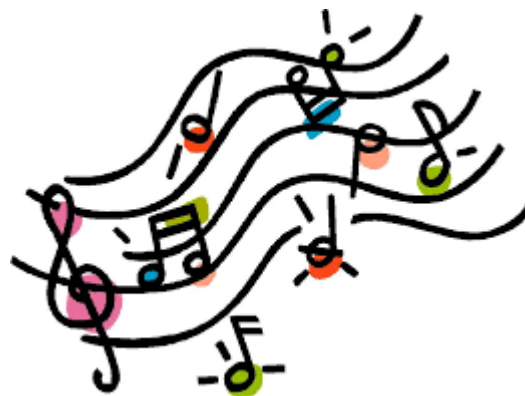
Handball & Dodgeball (KS2) starts at 12.10pm. First session 12th January. This club is full.

Multisports Club (years 4, 5 & 6) 3.30-4.30pm. First session 12th January.

Booking information has been sent out to parents/carers by Parentmail.

ORCHESTRA

The group starts up again for the Spring Term on Thursday 18th January (3.30-4.15pm).



LOST PROPERTY

Please can we remind parents to name all property, as it helps us to reunite lost items. We have a large selection of lost property in the Office, which you are welcome to sort through!



JOB VACANCIES

- Effective as soon as possible, we have vacancies in school for midday supervisors to help with our busy lunchtimes during term time.

The hours are 11.40am – 12.50pm (70mins per day); five days per week.

The current hourly rate is £10.98 (subject to pay rise in negotiation) for 38 weeks per year (plus 5 weeks paid holiday).

This is an excellent opportunity to get paid experience of working in a school.

If you would like to know more or know of someone who would like this role, please email: admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk



CAR PARK ETIQUETTE

Can we please politely remind parents/carers to drive carefully and park considerately. Safety is our top priority.

READY TO LEARN

William Shakespeare wrote "Better three hours too soon than a minute too late." While we don't expect our children to arrive in the early hours of the morning, please ensure that they are in the playground at 8.40am for when the bell rings. The roads are busy in Ipswich but perhaps leave a few minutes early to account for this. A late arrival after 8.50am means the class has already started and this is disruptive for your child and others in the class. Please remind children to come equipped for the day.



If your child is ill, please leave a message on the School Absence Line (01473 728372) before 8am, or send an email to: admin@st-marys-ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk We do ask that all children who have been sick or had diarrhoea remain at home until 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. Please try to make appointments outside of school hours, however, for unavoidable medical appointments we do request notice in advance.

IPSWICHFIT

For the rest of November through to New Year's Eve, Ipswichfit are offering every child a voucher to go swimming at Crown Pools for free when accompanied by a full paying adult. Please find voucher below.



**If your child was born between
1 September 2019 and
31 August 2020,
you must apply for a full-time
Reception Year school place by
15 January 2024**



You **must** make an application even if your child already has a place in a nursery class, pre-school or family hub

To apply for a place or for more information you can visit:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions

Information is also available from:

•The Admissions Team on **0345 600 0981**

•Your local school

IMPORTANT: St Mary's require a completed Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which should be sent to the school before 15th January deadline please. The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) can be found on our website under *Key Information – Admissions*

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN SUFFOLK

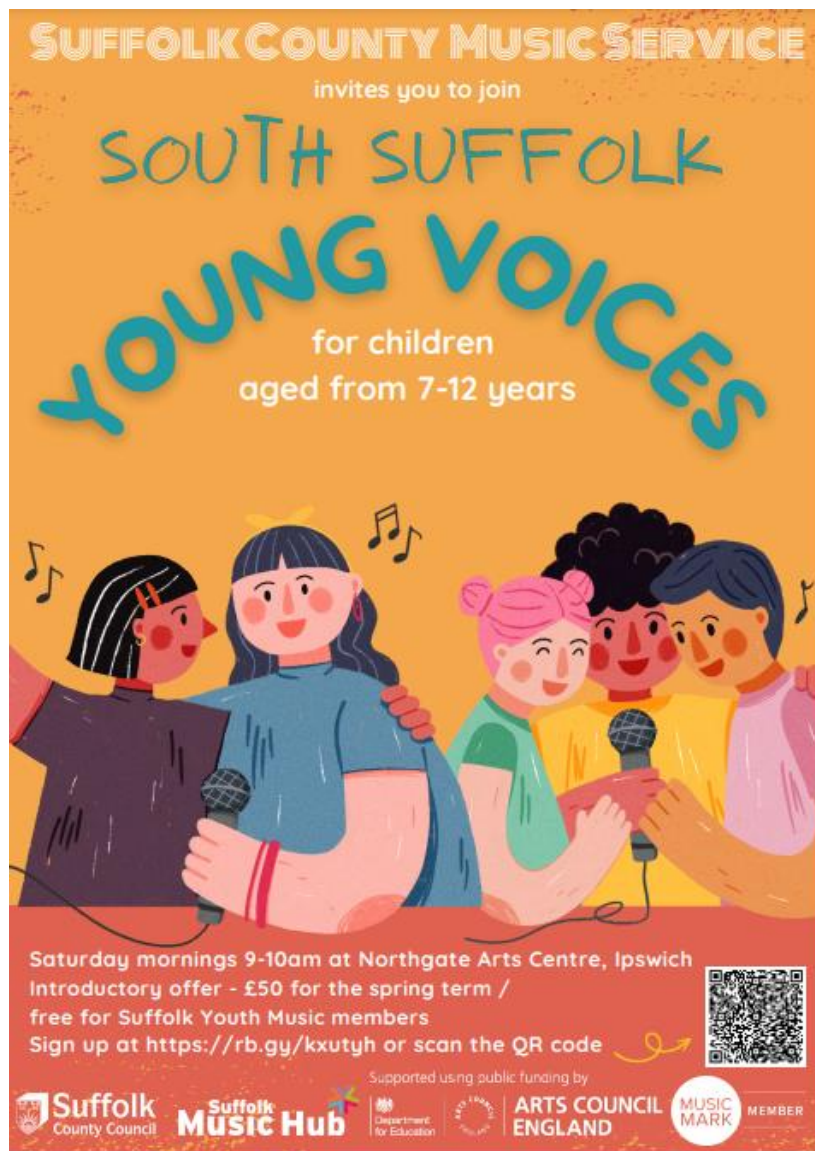
Ahead of awarding a new contract for library services next year, Suffolk County Council is seeking views from the public, businesses and schools about what is important to them, to help shape the next chapter of library services in Suffolk.



We want to hear views about services offered in library buildings as well as the mobile library service. Regardless of current use of library services, we want to hear everyone's views. See: www.suffolk.gov.uk/LibraryConsultation

There is a survey designed for children aged 8-13 years old, for them to have a say:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Libraries2023Children/>

The consultation closes on 26th January 2024. Thank you for your help.



NEW CHOIR LAUNCHING JANUARY 2024

Suffolk County Music Service are launching a new weekly choir at Northgate Arts Centre, Ipswich on a Saturday morning (9.00 – 10.00am) from January 2024.

Aimed at children aged 7-12 years, this is an opportunity for anyone who loves to sing, to join with others and make new friends whilst singing their heart out to a wide variety of songs. Our introductory offer of £50 for the Spring term is available now (free to current Suffolk Youth Music members). Anybody who is interested in joining will need to sign up at <https://www.suffolkmusichub.co.uk/take-part/suffolk-youth-music-activities/>

Contact: 01473 263400 or county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

I have a huge and Oscar-worthy thank you list for everyone who helped with our Christmas events this year.

Thank you to all the volunteers for our fair and discos, those of you who gave up your time to organise and to plan. Those who came in specially to set up, to clear up, or to help us move things in advance. Those who came in to run stalls and activities, to help with the discos and the tuck shops, who came early, stayed late, or took time off work to help out. And to all the hard-working St Mary's staff who gave up their time to supervise the discos, and the brilliant office staff who administered all the payments and took questions and collected in the raffle tickets for us.

Thank you for the beautiful hampers made up of your generous donations, the donated cakes and lucky bags and soft drinks, which meant we had an incredible selection to offer, thanks to everyone who took the time to buy raffle and disco tickets, to pay it forward, to send in money, to come to the events, to run their children back-and-forth from school, to come in and spend some money at the fair, we are grateful for each and every one of you.

Thanks to you all we have raised an amazing amount of money. Between the school disco and the Christmas Fair, we took over £2000. After costs have been taken out, we have a minimum profit of £1779.45 which is an incredible achievement for two half day events. This will go towards our target for the brand-new history wall that is being installed on the playground, it looks like it's going to be a fantastic learning resource for all the children.

We still have a couple of matched funding applications pending from volunteers, so the figure will end up being even more. We will report it in the New Year. Many big companies offer matched funding schemes, where they will pledge to match an amount of money that their employee has helped raise for a registered charity like us.

If you work for a company that offers matched funding, and you would like to help the Friends of Saint Mary's, please get in touch via the school office. I can help you with any application and it is usually very straightforward. We have had incredible support from companies like Microsoft, Barclays, Ellisons, HSBC, Lloyds and others, it can almost double the amount we raise, so it's always worth checking.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

From the Friends of St Mary's team



SPOTLIGHT ON RECEPTION

Reception have settled into school so well this term. We have been very busy with lots of learning and activities. We read 'The Gingerbread Man', pretended to be bakers and baked our own gingerbread. It was great to measure ingredients and use our fine motor skills to roll and cut up the gingerbread.



We also read the story 'Pumpkin Soup' and scooped out all the insides and roasted the pumpkin seeds that we found. These were a particular hit at snack time!

We have been learning about numbers through the number blocks and learning that parts can make up a whole through pictures, then using a small part whole model to make five. We looked at different ways we could make 5, beginning to see patterns and manipulate numbers.



Reception have read 'The Three Little Pigs'. We were challenged to build a house that the Big Bad Wolf could not blow down or even lean on! We had to make sure our wooden block houses were strong and secure. We did a great job whilst thinking about the properties of materials.

We tested out our houses to see if people could get in.



We also made mini houses built from sticks, straws and mini bricks to see which was the strongest.



We created stick puppets to act out the story of the three little pigs. We did some fabulous writing using our phonics. Reception are doing really well at learning their phonics and practising their letter formation.



Reception performed our Nativity to parents in the school hall. I was so proud of all them. They learnt lines to say and songs to sing and remembered where they had to be on stage – what a great experience for them all!



Reception read the book 'It's a No Money Day' which is a story of a family who use a foodbank. We discussed how anyone can use a foodbank and thought what it's like to be really hungry. We made a class donation box of items for the local foodbank and we role played what a foodbank may be like. It was good that the children had a chance to think of others at this time of year. We also made a class book of Kindness – children stuck in a heart with a small message of kindness, to remind us all through the year.

Mrs Woods



IN NEED OF SUPPORT OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY?

Some sources of support are as follows:

<https://healthwatchsuffolk.co.uk/signposting/youngpeople/>

You can call Childline about anything on 0800 1111. There is the option to speak with one of its councillors. It also has plenty of information on its website, including information about Cyberbullying: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

[Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Hub](#)

Information, advice and support for anyone concerned about the emotional wellbeing and mental health of a child or young person aged 0 to 25 years. Link above or call 0345 600 2090.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Anyone can call Samaritans on 116 123. It does not matter how old you are or what is bothering you. [This page](#) on the Samaritans website tells you what to expect if you call them.

If you are concerned about an immediate risk to the safety of a child, please call Customer First on 0808 800 4005.

In an emergency, call the Police on 999.



Term dates for 2023 – 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Half term: 23rd – 27th October

End of Term: Wednesday 20th December

Spring Term 2024

Thursday 4th January – Thursday 28th March

Half term: 19th – 23rd February

Staff Training day: 3rd January & 26th February

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 19th July

Bank holiday: 6th May

Half term: 27th May – 31st May

Staff Training days: 12th April