

Newsletter

Issue 13

04th December 2020

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

<http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryipswich.com>



Tweet of the Week

"God's grace changes lives: He takes us as we are, but He never leaves us as we are."

[Pope Francis \(@Pontifex\)](#)



Dear Parent's,

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who continues to support and protect our school by arriving on time, standing in a space and wearing a face covering when dropping and collecting pupils. Many thanks for your continued support Mrs Berry.

Advent Message from Fr Peter:

Please take a few minutes to view Fr Peter's Advent message to you all.

[Fr Peter Advent Message for all](#)

Year 2 Advent Service:

Parents please visit your year 2 google classroom to view your child's wonderful advent service.

Friday 18th December Finish Time:

This will be a normal school day and the children will finish at either 3pm, 3.10pm or 3.20pm depending on which class they are in.



Christmas Fun Day:

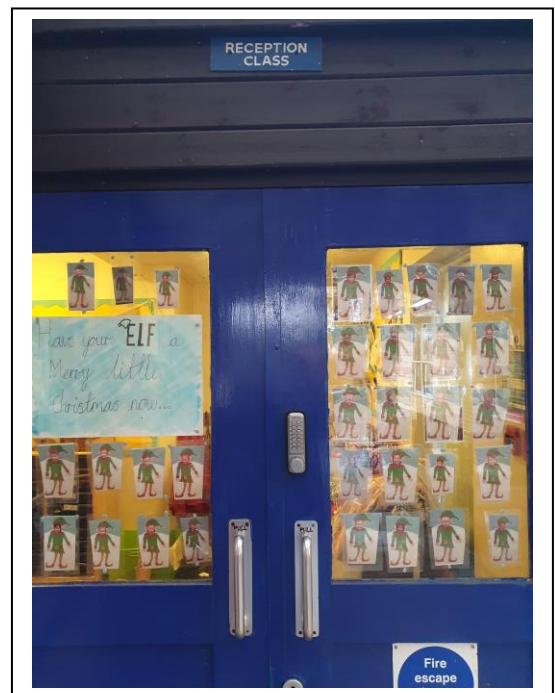
A reminder that Thursday 10th December is the Christmas Fun Day. Your child is invited to wear their own clothes for a £1.00 plus any donation that you wish to make. More details from the PTA are attached with the newsletter.

Christmas Post Box

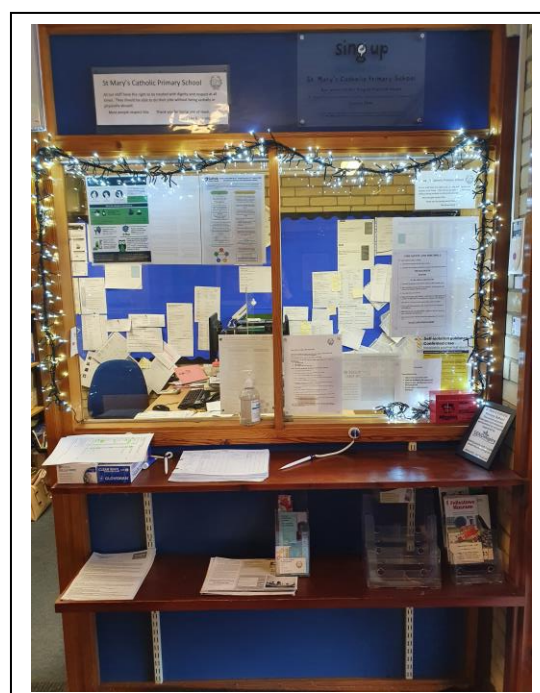
Unfortunately, we won't be able to have a Christmas post box this year. Pupils will be able to give Christmas cards to pupils in the same bubble only.

Christmas Creations:

Some Christmas Elves have been getting the school looking beautiful for Christmas and we would like to share with you all of the wonderful creations.







Virtual Tour – For New Children applying for Reception Class 2021/2022

The virtual tour of the school is now available on St Mary's Facebook page and the school website for you to view. Also available is a video from the reception teacher Mrs Goodwin on the reception class page on the website.

Reception 2021/2022:

The application portal is now open with Suffolk County Council for parents to apply for their child's Reception class for children starting school in September 2021/2022.

We require a Supplementary Information Form that will need to be completed and returned to the office at school before the deadline 15th January 2021. Any SIF's received after this date will be dealt with as a late application.

Online Safety Message from Mr Cook:

Please see attached the following safety message from Mr Cook

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx>

Childline – Calm Zone

Please take a look at the childline calm zone for different ways to help calm your child.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Calm zone | Childline

There are lots of way to feel calmer. Try our breathing exercises, activities and games or watch a video to help let go of stress.

www.childline.org.uk

Find:

Should any families find that they need support. Please do not hesitate to contact the school as we are able to make referrals to FIND for food parcels.



Raring2go!:

Please find to follow, the digital link for my Raring2go! Christmas special magazine:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/ipswichandfelixstowe/winter/>

Christmas Fun Day:



Friends of St Mary's PTA are working with the school to put on a Christmas Fun day on Thursday 10th December. This is also Christmas dinner day, and a non uniform day for £1 donation. Children may wear their own clothes, Christmas themed or not, it is up to them.

The attached flyer has all the headlines, this is just to explain a little more of the detail.

We have organised a number of activities and treats, there is no charge and all children will be included. It's intended as a nice experience for them in place of the Christmas fair and Santa visit. The PTA are putting together the arrangements for each bubble, and the teaching staff will run the day.

The children will enjoy lots of arts, crafts, activities and games, a Christmas quiz, a call from Santa and some lovely classroom gifts, token presents, and they will also be treated to a performance of an online pantomime!

We are approaching our Christmas activities and fundraising slightly differently this year. We are very aware that for a lot of us, our financial situations aren't brilliant. For this reason, other than the non

uniform £1, the children won't need any money on the day, everyone is included and there is no charge. For the same reason, we won't be sending out the usual requests for bottles/chocolates/hamper gifts/baked goods/filled bags / prizes.

Instead we are asking for families to consider an affordable donation, where they are in a position to do so.

You may donate whatever you wish, there is no expected amount, and if you can't afford anything we understand. We can accept cash to the school office marked PTA Christmas, or electronically via Go Fund Me at <https://gf.me/u/y99z92> - you can also find it by going to the Go Fund Me page and searching 'St Mary's Ipswich' – we are the ones with the rainbow coloured spiral of hand prints.

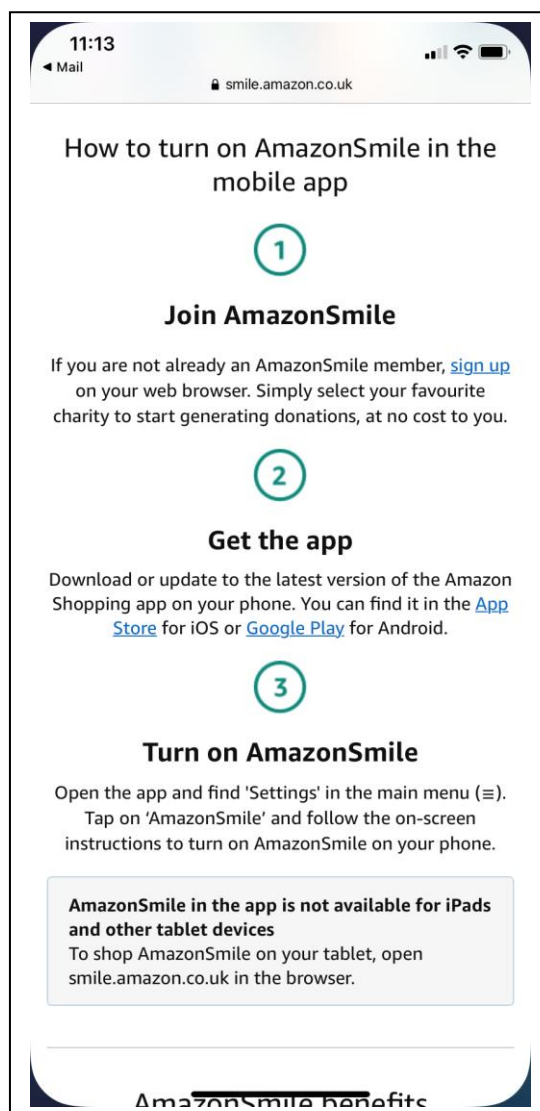
It's a different way of fundraising this year but we feel it's appropriate to the situation we are all in. The majority of funds raised will go towards the outdoor project, including the final stages of the lower Willow Garden and potentially clearing the pond area. Thank you very much in advance for your kind contributions, they will make a world of difference.

Amazon Smile:

A little reminder for people to click through using Easy Fundraising or Amazon smile when doing Christmas shopping to raise money for the school? Amazon smile is now available in the Amazon app, they just need to turn it on like this:

Thanks very much

Marge Jessop and the FOSM PTA team





Dates for your Diary:

Term dates for 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 18th December

Half term: 26th – 30th October

Staff Training Days: 1st & 2nd September

Spring Term 2021

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 26th March

Half term: 15th – 19th February

Staff Training day: 4th January

Summer Term 2021

Monday 12th April – Friday 16th July

Bank holiday: 3rd May

Half term: 31st May – 4th June

Staff Training days: 19th & 20th July (disaggregated)

