



Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly apologies for the late newsletter, I am usually more prompt at getting them out!

Welcome back to St Mary's. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term, and are looking forward to an exciting and successful lead up to Christmas. Before then we have plenty to fit in.

We would like to extend a special welcome to:

Gabby, Ben, and J-J who have all joined us recently. We hope you will enjoy your time with us. Parents/Carers should have received a 'Welcome Letter' which details various routines, opening times and useful information for the Pre-School, if not, please let a member of staff know and we will get one to you.

The **TERM DATES** for this academic year are:

Autumn Term: 05 – September 2011 to 16 – December 11 (Half term 24th - 28th October)

Spring Term: 09 - January 2012 to 30 - March 2012 (Half term 13th - 17th February)

Summer Term: 16 – April 2012 to 13 – July 2012 (Half term 04th - 08th June)

During this term we will be encouraging the children to use the outdoor equipment so please bring coats, hats etc for your children.

I am sure you are all aware that St Mary's have just been awarded **outstanding** in their recent Ofsted visit. This is a great result and reflects the hard work and dedication Louise, Tina and the team at St Mary's have to making the pre-school the best it can be.

The Photographer visited the pre-school in September. Thank you to everyone who purchased photos, this activity raised £180 for pre-school.

Our main event of the year was the **CHRISTMAS FAIR**, which was on Saturday 12th November.

Firstly thank you to everyone who generously donated items, for all the cakes and items for the home industries stall, which was again this year our most popular table, along with items for the children's stalls and hampers. Many thanks to those who sold raffle tickets, distributed posters and for everyone who supported the event on the day. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and much as we did this year, as we are pleased to confirm the Christmas Fair raised £1510.17 which is a great result. Your continued support is very much appreciated, so a big thank you. Also I would like to extend a special thank you to:

Nici Edge - Chief fundraiser and organizer of the day, and for the amazing raffle prizes, and all the behind the scenes work.



Marie Booker - for making the Christmas cake, and for running the chocolate tombola
Liz Buttle – for the amazing face painting, she still had children queuing at the end of the fair!

Shell Gregory and Nicola Glass, Valerie, Kat Gloyne and Rex Harrington Steph Hillier and Abigail Player - for running various school stalls

Claire McWilliam and Katerina Turnbull, Caz Bond, Olivia Nunn, Clare Smith and Becky McTigue - for wrapping hampers.

Kerry Haddon, Olivia Nunn, Jenny and Les, and Claire Smith – for helping set up and clear up the hall before and at the end of the event.

The Ewing family – for contributing again in running stalls, especially Nick Ewing – for calling the raffle

Vicky Claxson – for all the printing of posters and raffle tickets

And to all the staff who made a massive contribution to the day, amongst other things (the list is never ending) highlights of their support are below:

Louise and Rachel - for running the grotto,

Tina, with her mom and daughter - for running home industries stall,

Julia - for running hunt the turkey and guess the weight of the cake.

Cathy and Maz - for providing the refreshments.

Linda, for running the adult tombola stall.

As always we welcome your feedback, if you have an idea or a stall you would like to see at the Christmas Fair please let us know. This event is our main money maker so don't be shy, let us know what you thought.

Christmas Nativity Play is on 6th December (as per notes in your baskets, if you didn't get one please see Louise or Tina) in the Church at 11:15am followed by tea/coffee and mince pies in the pre-school for the adults and **Visit from Santa** for the children. All children are invited to attend, along with parents and grandparents. The Nativity play will be featuring all the children who will be leaving for school in July, and all children will take part in singing Christmas songs.

Pre-School Tops are available for purchase, t-shirts £5 and sweatshirts £8, please ask Cathy for details. (Highly recommend to save getting home clothes messy)

Finally, You may have noticed the “walk don't drive sign” at the bottom of the drive way leading up to pre-school, this notice is nothing to do with pre-school but from the church. Please don't feel you have to walk to pre-school, we understand that parents with small ones need to drive. But if you would like to walk you can park in any of the roads at the bottom.

Thanks again for your continued support, have a great Christmas and New Year.

Kelly Ewing
Chairperson.

**Hard copies of this are available; if you are receiving this in paper from please do give your email address to Louise so you can be included on the distribution list.