



St Mary's School

Autumn Bulletin

St Mary's CE Primary
& Nursery School

Autumn Term 2023

'Growing Together in God's Love to Achieve Excellence'

Christmas Highlights

PTA Wreath-Making Workshop

The PTA wreath making workshop left all those who attended feeling very festive. We were joined by Anita and Richard Jojo from local florists 'Fleur de Vie' who filled the school hall with the scent of Christmas trees as they unpacked the foliage for our wreaths. By the end of the evening, everyone had created their own stunning festive wreath with lots of laughter, chatter and mulled wine along the way!



Pick a Present



The fabulous PTA elves have done it again! The IT room looked every inch the grotto and students had a whale of a time picking their

presents. Thank you so much to all the elves for their hard work.

Year 1&2 Twinkly Nativity



The Year 1 and 2 children have entertained us with their enthusiasm and energy all term, however the beautiful singing and wonderful performances in 'The Twinkly Nativity' can't have failed to warm anyone's heart. The children acted and sang their hearts out and put a lot of hard work into learning their parts and words.

It was lovely to be able to invite parents into school to watch the performance, which we are sure will be long remembered. Thank you to all the parents for the beautiful costumes and to the Year 1 and 2 staff who worked hard ensuring the children produced Oscar worthy performances.

Christmas Jumper Day / Xmas Factor



The return of a much loved and well established tradition at St Mary's. Each class holds auditions and puts forward their entrants into the final, which was held on Friday 15th December. The talented range of acts, each of a very high standard, made the task of judging very difficult.

The winning act, the Year 5 male vocal group (with guitar accompaniment) 'The Sleepy Santas', were far from sleepy, delivering a high energy performance and revving up the crowd! Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and for a very enjoyable event.

Toy Appeal 2023

Earlier in December the Salvation Army collected donations made by the St Mary's Community. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and we know that these presents will make a real difference to the Christmas experience for families in need this year. Thank you so much.



R/1 Christmas Fun



R/1 have had a lot of fun this term - particularly in the 'sand nativity'! Here Ffion is drawing Mary.

School Council Updates

Reading Council

Sssshhhhh!

READING IN PROGRESS



Did you know, St Mary's children took part in a whole school silent read to raise money for a book exchange???

This event was a huge success, thanks to the children and yourselves. Due to the enormous amount of enthusiasm demonstrated by the children and your generosity, I am pleased to say, we are well on our way to achieving the amount needed for a red telephone box to house the book exchange. The total raised from the silent read event was £1625!

Thank you so much for supporting us, we could not have done it without you. More fund-raising events, organised by the children's reading council, will be happening in the Spring term.



Eco Council

The Eco council have been very busy this term, finding new ways to make both the school and St Mary's families more eco - friendly.



The Eco council have invested in new recycling bins where you can deposit soft plastics or compostable materials. They have even used some of their lunch break to walk over the soft plastics to the Washway Road Co-op., where they will be recycled



'I've enjoyed going to the Co-op to recycle the soft plastics' - Mitch, Year 5 Eco Council

Maths Council

We have been doing lots of interesting things in maths council this term. First, we changed 'Times Table of the week' to 'Times and Division Fact of the week'.

Then we had Maths Factor. Maths factor is where all the classes log onto 'Times Table Rockstars' to see if they can remember their times tables!

Lastly, we promoted 'England Rocks' a national maths competition; Year 3 came third, Year 5 came second and Year 4 came first.

Written by Leah - Year 5

School Council

This term the school council launched a poster competition asking students to celebrate friendship. There were lots of amazing entries and the school council found it very difficult to judge but after much deliberation the following winners were announced.

Year 3 - Isabelle N
Year 4 - William
Year 5 - Thea
Year 6 - Cece

Well done to everyone who took part!



Sports Council

On Thursday 30th November, Year 5 members of the Sports Council attended the Sports Leadership Academy at the Emirates Stadium in Old Trafford.

'We got to see professional sportspeople, like Stacey Copeland, a famous boxer and footballer, talk about their career.' - Karney

'We were in the commentary box and we heard sportspeople talk about how they became professional athletes. We learnt about sexism in sport.' - Elsa

'We learnt in the past, it was illegal for girls to play football and we got to hold Stacey Copeland's boxing belt.' - Tobias
'Stacey Copeland had to have her hair cut short like a boy to be allowed to play football.' - Alex

Overall, the Year 5 Sports leaders had an interesting morning.

Sporting News

Netball VIP

Mrs Leota (England Technical Coach) took time out of her busy schedule to coach the Netball Club in one of their after school sessions.



Basketball Updates

KS2 have been lucky enough to play in three tournaments over the last half term and the feedback has been fantastic!

Week 1 (Monday 6th November)

The basketball team performed brilliantly in the Trafford Basketball tournament. Their slick passing and expert dribbling was commended by the other coaches who were there. The team were very unlucky not to reach the semi-finals, coming 3rd in the group.

Week 2 (Monday 13th November)

All the team played really well, displaying excellent team work with great passing and interceptions. In four fast paced games, they won 3 and drew 1, reaching the semi-finals. They narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, losing 1-0 in the semi-finals to the eventual winners of the tournament - Park Road. They showed great sportsmanship and represented St Mary's superbly

Week 3 (Monday 20th November)

The team played really well, winning all of their matches to put them through to the semi-final and ultimately the final! They showed great sportsmanship and determination. In some very close matches, they all showed great passing skills and marking. The final was down to a nail-biting finish at 4-4 at the full-time whistle, meaning it was then down to the first team to score! Well done to St Mary's for winning the Representative Basketball Tournament 20th Nov 2023!

Sale and Partington Football League

Our school team have got off to an amazing start with their fixtures in the league. Our team have demonstrated brilliant skills and determination but most of all great teamwork! They have won all six of their games, conceding no goals and scoring an amazing thirteen goals. We sit at the top of the league with one round of fixtures to go.

Multi Sports Engagement Day – Yr 4

In October, Year 4 went to Brooklands Sports Club to take part in a Multi-Sports enrichment day where they enjoyed taking part in Lacrosse, Hockey and other team games.



'We worked on our teamwork skills and I really enjoyed it' – Alfie
'I enjoyed playing squash, it's something I've always wanted to try, it was really fun.' – Maria

Trafford Handball Competition

Our Year 5 and 6 handball team had a great time at the tournament, showing particularly good sportsmanship and supporting each other well in really tight games. A fantastic afternoon had by all.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities – Year 3

This term, Year 3 were given a fantastic opportunity to join with other schools by taking part in a fun activity morning facilitated by the students of Ashton on Mersey School. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the inspirational multi-skills events which tested their agility, teamwork skills and resilience. Activities included forming a human pyramid and using the climbing wall to compete in an exciting "floor is lava" game! Thanks for having us Ashton on Mersey School!

'We got to use loads of cool equipment and the activities were loads of fun!' – Aubrey, Year 3

Tag Rugby – Year 5

In November, Year 5 went to Ashton on Mersey School to take part in an Inter-school TAG Rugby event. As you can see, our winning team were very proud of themselves!

'It was fun and competitive' – Rochelle, Year 5

'We won all the games and I enjoyed playing against other schools' – Henry, Year 5

'The other teams were a challenge to beat!' – Bryant, Year 5



The Cliff Football Tournament



The footballers performed really well at the Manchester United tournament at the Cliff training ground. They showed great teamwork and perseverance to come runners up! An excellent effort from all.

Lacrosse Tournament – Yr 3



In November, Year 3 represented St Mary's in a friendly tournament at Brooklands Sports Club. Event organisers commended both the ability and positive attitude of the students involved. Well done Year 3!

Dodgeball – Year 4

A brilliant effort from our Year 4 dodgeball team who came third in the Ashton-on-Mersey competition. They showed tremendous energy with great dodging and throwing skills! Great job!

Trips and Events

Jodrell Bank

Year 5 well to Jodrell Bank to spend a fun packed day exploring the Space Dome and find out about the Lovell Telescope.
'I liked Jodrell Bank because the satellite looked like a big cereal bowl!' – Emily
'There were lots of interesting things' – Rana
I saw and did new things, like using glasses to make a telescope' – Karney
'There were fun activities and I've never seen a telescope that big before!' – Mitch.

Reception – Language of the Term



Reception enjoyed learning about France during our Language of the Term day. We tasted croissants and baguettes, made flags and learnt to count and greet each other in French

Blue Planet Aquarium – Year 1&2



KS 1 TAKE A DEEP DIVE!

The children had a wonderful day out at Blue Planet Aquarium, earlier this term, learning about sea creatures and their habitats. The day was filled with ooohs and ahhs as the children came face to face with the fascinating creatures and the watery world they live in. Coming close up and personal with the sharks and pelicans being the highlight of the day. In addition, there were lots of enthusiastic questions when meeting the marine biologists and the children also got an opportunity to show off their already in-depth knowledge of the world around us.

Young Shakespeare (The Scottish Play)

In October, Years 5 and 6 welcomed the Young Shakespeare Company into school and thoroughly enjoyed their energetic and entertaining rendition of Macbeth.

It was a fantastical play and I was "on the edge of my seat". I was delighted to join in. I particularly liked the audience participation and the fact that lots of children even got parts in the play. It was 10/10!

Alex - Year 6



Geography Trip to Ashton Village – Year 3



Year 3 had a great time on our geography field trip into Ashton Village, despite the rain, surveying the different types of vehicles they could see on our roads. The children used compasses to map out their surroundings and had lots of fun identifying the many different land uses - we even managed to find some agricultural land down at the allotments! In the end, the sun came out just in time for us to complete our final survey. We then put our maths skills to use by analysing our data back at school before mapping out and recounting our journey. Fab field work Year 3!

Altru Drama – Viking Workshops

In November, Altru Drama came in and delivered a day long workshop introducing the class to Vikings to enrich their History curriculum.

We are Vikings!
We're really tough!
We sail across the seas!
Our boats are long!
The seas are rough!
We do just as we please!
We like to go out raiding!
We take what we can find!
Gold and jewels and books!



Copley Prize Winner

We are immensely proud of Sophia Kidane who has won the Copley Prize at The Lowry for her painting of L.S. Lowry. Her family had a lovely afternoon celebrating her achievement and seeing the unveiling of her work which is hanging in The Lowry next to the works of the great man himself. Sophia was interviewed and spoke eloquently about her love of art which she enjoys in her spare time.



St Mary's Church Reception Trip

In October, Reception visited St Mary's church and had a wonderful time.

'I liked finding the books' – Reuben
'I liked it when I found the mouse' – Rosie

'I liked seeing the crosses' – Finlay & Anna G
'I liked hunting for things and ticking them off' – Ralphie



Autumn Term Fundraising

We have had a fantastic term for fundraising and have raised the following for various good causes:

- Joy School 2023 - £165.80
- Letterbox Silent Read - £1625.00
- Children in Need - £227.01
- Poppy Appeal - £180.97
- Second Hand Book Sale - £124.01
- Save the Children (jumper day) - £113.07

Thank you for your support, we couldn't do it without you!

Nursery News

Autumn Term Summary

Autumn Term has whizzed by and the Nursery children have grown so very much, both in confidence and social skills. From a group of individual children, they have cried, laughed and gelled together, to form friendships which we are sure will see them through their school years.

Here is a smattering of our busy "learning through play" term. In outdoor play, following the children's interests, we have developed and explored spatial awareness, and motor skills through various activities.

For example, the children observed autumn and its glorious colours and were fascinated by the sycamore tree's helicopter seeds and the huge pile of accumulating leaves. Collecting them, the children threw them in the air in handfuls, watching Nature's toys with wonder, as they watched them fall/spin to earth.

Inside has been as busy. At present we are getting ready for Christmas, with various craft activities. As I am writing this we are practising for our sing-along, which I am sure, will be absolutely wonderful and memory filled. To the children I just want to say I am very proud of you all and how you have met the challenges of this term.



Miss Drinkwater and myself wish you and your loved ones a wonderful, memory filled Christmas.



Thank you. Once again we should like to thank all the parents who ferry the children to and from the various matches and to all those who accompany the children on school trips, we couldn't do it without them! We should also like to thank all the teachers of after school activities for their hard work and dedication, especially for the outdoor activities, battling the elements this term.