

IN BRIEF:

Non uniform day for PTA Christmas fair 29th November in return for a bottle...

Congratulations to our tag rugby team who were runners up in the Sherborne Area tag rugby tournament today! Very proud of your achievement..

Thank you to the PTA for paying for the coaches to the Octagon Theatre for the panto...



ST MARY'S PRIMARY

Church of England Primary School

BA NEWS NOVEMBER 2019

Christmas activities

Please find details below of the many activities we have going on in December. Can I say a huge thank you to all the staff who work very hard to make these events possible; often giving up their free time to do so as all these activities are in addition to the basic curriculum entitlement we offer as a school.

Tuesday 3rd December at 2.30pm: **KS2 Christingle in church**—parents welcome

Friday 6th December at 3.00-5.00pm: **PTA Christmas Fayre**—school hall

Tuesday 10th December at 2.15pm: **KS1 Nativity**

Wednesday 11th December at 6pm: **KS1 Nativity**

Monday 16th December all afternoon: **Whole school to the Octagon to see the pantomime**—pick up from the Theatre

Wednesday 18th December **Whole school Christmas lunch and party.** Please can the children bring party clothes in a bag to get changed into at lunchtime (no heels please!) If you have not booked your child a Christmas meal, then please provide a festive lunchbox.

Thursday 19th December at 9.00am: **Carol service** in the church. **Carols around the tree** at 2.45pm in the hall. Everyone welcome but please be aware that this is a very popular event and it may be standing room only.

BREAK UP 3.20pm

The Christmas post box will be up in the hall from Monday 2nd December. Please make sure you write the child's full name and class so we can make sure cards are delivered to the right children!

DIARY DATES—NOVEMBER

- 28 Five |Bridges' class sharing assembly at 2.55pm
- 29 Non uniform day—see above



SCHOOL CLOSURE IN THE EVENT OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The decision to close the school is never taken lightly. We do try very hard to keep the school open at all times, but some of our staff have to travel quite some distance to school and if they cannot make it, it is not always possible to open and run the school safely and within the law. Senior staff are almost certainly required as they have knowledge of health and safety, medical and safeguarding procedures. Sometimes, it is necessary to wait until it is light to make an informed judgement but we do try to make a decision as early as feasibly possible.

If the school has to close, you will be sent a text message as soon as possible. Please **do not ring** the school as there may be no one on site. You can also check the school website:

www.bradfordabbasprimary.co.uk or visit: <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices> It will also be posted on Facebook. **It is really important that we have up to date contact details** for you so if you are lucky enough to have a new mobile for Christmas, please let the office have the number as soon as possible.

Please remember that if a decision is made to open the school, the decision on whether it is safe to travel remains with parents as we have no knowledge of road conditions where you are.

Curriculum enrichment - making learning relevant, fun and raising aspirations

In the course of their literacy work, year 5 and 6 have attended a presentation by author Emma Carroll as part of Yeovil Literary Festival...

Year 3, 4 and 5 have been Vikings for a day and taken part in a Viking workshop (pictures on the website)...

Year 6 are going to Orchard gym to further develop their gymnastic skills...

The children have been having cricket coaching weekly led by Shaun Fitzgerald of Dorset Cricket Board...

Year 6 have been to the Fleet Air Arm museum to learn more about the events of World War 2 (pictures on the website)...

Some KS2 children have been participating in Bikeability level 1 and 2 to increase their road awareness and safety (see opposite page)...

Year 6 gave a fantastic assembly on World War 2 to parents...

A big thank you to parents with helping with the cost of some of these activities and transport. We were happy to be able to fund some of the coach costs for several trips this time.

[Curriculum maps](#) (which outline what your child is learning this term) can be found on our website as they are published.



Christian values

This term we have been learning about compassion. Part of our work is around noticing others' needs, being a good neighbour, having a positive attitude, having the courage to care and helping others. As a school we showed compassion through our remembrance service—our children were praised for their respect and exceptional behaviour by David Dunning, the member of clergy leading the service—and through our fund raising for Children in Need. Congratulations to year 6 who raised £100.20 from the sale of cakes. £217.59 was raised overall from your generous donations.



Cross country

On the 7th November, our team competed in the Yeovil Schools' cross country event held at Yeovil Town Football club. They all enjoyed themselves and there were some superb



performances. Sophie, who was late to start, made up a huge amount of lost ground through sheer determination and power and ended up coming 37th - well inside the top third! Congratulations also to Sharmilla who finished first in her category!

Bikeability

We have been able to offer the opportunity to complete a bikeability course this year organized and led by Ben Timberlake. Some of our older children participated and all passed level 1—congratulations to them!



PTA Christmas fair

The PTA Christmas fair will be on Friday 6th December starting at 3pm and finishing at 5.00pm. As per the summer fair, if you would like to collect your child at 3pm to go around the fair, there will be a letter coming home for you to sign and return to the class teacher. You will need to pick up your child at the usual place—there will be no access to the classrooms during this time.

There will be a **non uniform day** on Friday 29th November in exchange for a donation for the Christmas fair—please see letter that was sent home.

Illness and medical appointments

The season of bugs is upon us! To prevent sickness/diarrhoea being spread across the school, your child **must** be kept away from school until 48 hours after the last bout. This applies even if they have been sick once. We would respectfully ask that you keep to these guidelines. We have also spoken to the children about the importance of good hand hygiene. We do not expect children to be kept away from school with coughs and colds—unless a child has a significant health condition, these are a normal part of life. Further information about different illnesses can be found on the website under downloads—documents.

If you know your child is not going to be in school, you should phone the office as soon as possible. Wherever possible, doctors and dental appointments should be made out of school hours. We do need as much notice as possible for in-school appointments so teachers can plan learning accordingly. If an appointment is short and relatively local to school, we do expect to see children in school before and/or afterwards please.

Other dates for your diary:

December

3rd: Key Stage 2 Christingle in church 2.30pm

6th: PTA Christmas fair 3-5pm

9th: Key Stage 1 dress rehearsal 10am

10th: Key Stage 1 nativity 2.15pm in the hall

11th: Key Stage 1 nativity 6pm in the hall

12th: Nasal flu vaccinations for all year groups—organised by the NHS

16th: Whole school to the pantomime at Octagon Theatre, Yeovil

17th: Spirituality day

18th: Whole school Christmas meal and party 12pm

19th: Carol service 9am in St Mary's Church; 2.45pm Carols around tree in the school hall. Break up for the Christmas holidays. The Spring term commences on Monday 6th January 2020.

It has been a really busy term at St Mary's but as usual the atmosphere is happy and purposeful. Thank you for working with us in a spirit of supportive collaboration—education really is a team effort and teamwork makes this school a special place.

With four weeks to go until the end of term, I would like to take this very early opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and new year.

Emma Grunnill
Head teacher