

# St Mary's Weekly

'Every Child Flourishing'



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Friday 9th December

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Mrs Corner

We are delighted to announce the safe and surprise arrival of Mrs Corner's first child. Mrs Corner has given birth to a baby boy this week; she was due to start her maternity leave after the Christmas holidays, but her new arrival made a surprise early visit! We would like to wish Mrs Corner and her husband our best wishes at this wonderful time. We look forward to meeting him in the future.

## Roof

There should be no disruption to classes in the last week of school. After the Christmas holidays, we are moving the Sun Beams after school club provision into the hall until February half term to enable us to set up the spare classroom as a teaching space while KS2 classes are undergoing roof repairs. Children accessing Sun Beams provision should be dropped off at the double doors to the hall on a morning and collected from here too. Moving the provision will create stability for teaching during next half term. After February Half term, Ms Saynor will start her sports clubs once again, as well as a new dancing club run by Mrs Gillott!

## Concerts

Please drop off Key Stage One children on the night of the concert from 5:40pm at their classroom fire door. This will enable children time to change into their costumes and staff time to ensure that children are present. If you have a child in both KS1 and KS2, children in KS2 will watch a film while KS1 perform. Those children in KS2 without a sibling in KS1 don't need to arrive until 6:40 p.m. They will enter by their classroom fire doors. After the KS1 concert, if you are not watching the KS2 concert, you can collect children from Years 1 and 2 via the class fire doors. If your child has a sibling performing, staff will keep children in class and watch a film with them until you have watched the KS2 show.

## Art and Football Club

There will be no Art or Football Club the last week (w/c 12<sup>th</sup> December), children should be collected at normal time.

## Christmas Concert

Please make sure payments AND slips have been returned due to a maximum capacity in the Hall, we need to ensure we do not go above numbers.

## School Lunches

Please keep lunch accounts on ParentPay in credit.

## December

Afternoon concerts for KS1 and KS2 13<sup>th</sup> (tickets now available to book on Parent Pay)

Christmas Party Day, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> (Children can wear party clothes/ dress down clothes to school)

Evening concerts for KS1 and KS2, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> (tickets now available to book on Parent Pay)

Year 6 library visit Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> (morning visit)

Carols around the tree 2:15pm, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> (parents/carers welcome- all children to wear school uniform with Christmas jumpers if they wish)

Reception and Year 6 Nativity at St Mary's church 10:00am (families of children in these classes are welcome to attend) Friday 16<sup>th</sup> The whole school will walk to church to watch the nativity- all children to wear school uniform with Christmas jumpers if they wish.

## **January**

Bank Holiday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Inset Day 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Year 4 Robinwood Residential 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

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**We have received the following information and advice from the Department for Education-** we have no cases of Scarlet Fever or Strep A infections in school at present.

## **Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections**

The Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, is closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) and scarlet fever. As a Department, we are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who are leading on the response.

UKHSA is reporting an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year. There is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

### **What are scarlet fever and Strep A?**

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

### **What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?**

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise parents to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, advise they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Encourage parents to trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

### **How to help prevent Strep A?**

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

**Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any concerns.**