

Dear Parents

A huge thank you to everyone who donated the shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were blown away with the 46 filled shoe boxes that were donated. These little boxes will help make a difference to children on Christmas day.

This Sunday we look forward to starting the season of Advent with a family mass in Church at 10:00 followed by the Christmas Fayre in the school hall. Farther John looks forward to welcoming you all.

We are also looking forward to spending the special season of Advent in school over the coming weeks. Today we joined the One life Music Advent streamed event which was a perfect way to start the season of in prayer! Next week our Advent prayer services began which always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. All are welcome to join us.

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas is fast approaching and is a very busy time in school. The Foundation stage and Key Stage One are excited to share their Christmas Nativities with you next week. I have been lucky enough to see some little bits of it this week and it is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you. Some other important dates are below

<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch (any monetary donations to Douglas Macmillan Hospice would be greatly appreciated)
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	End of Term Assembly 1:45pm
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Christmas Carol Concert 9:30pm

Please note that we return to school on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

Thank you for your continued support during this term and I look forward to sharing this season of Advent with you.

God Bless

Mrs Rathbone

This Advent will mark the start of a special year in the church's calendar. Pope Francis has called for a 'Year of Prayer' in preparation for the Jubilee year in 2025. We are being encouraged to reflect on our life of prayer: what we pray, how we pray & why we pray to encourage us to deepen our own prayer life and love of God and help someone else to pray. There will be a particular focus on the 'Our Father'. This Advent please take time to pray this prayer with your families.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Tuesday 19th  
December



## Advent Prayer Services

Monday 4th  
December  
Year 6

Tuesday  
5th December  
Year 5

Thursday  
7th December  
Year 4

Monday  
11th December  
Year 3

Tuesday  
12th December  
Year 2

Thursday  
14th December  
Year 1

Monday  
18th December  
Reception

Start time: 9.05am



A reminder on Tuesday 5th  
December Year 6 will be  
swimming in place of Year 5.



A polite reminder to ensure all clothing and  
water bottles are labelled with your  
Child's name

Celebration Assemblies can be found on  
our website on our calendar tab:

[https://www.stmarysstoke.co.uk/  
calendar/?calid=1&pid=8&viewid=1](https://www.stmarysstoke.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=8&viewid=1)



Did you know you can subscribe to  
our calendar ?



Well done to all our Songbirds who represented St Mary's in  
the Christmas Concert





## Autumn Term 2023

Date	Event
Tuesday 12th December	Christmas Concerts Foundation stage 2pm and KS1 6pm
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Concerts KS1 2pm and Foundation stage 5.30pm
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Dinner day
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Jumper day
Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd December	Christmas Breakfast (bookable on SCOPAY)
Friday 22nd December	Carol Concert KS2 Nativity in church
Friday 22nd December	School Closes

## Spring Term 2024

Date	Event
Monday 8th January	School closed to pupils - Inset day
Tuesday 9th January	School opens for Spring Term
Tuesday 9th January	Y4 Swimming (x5 weeks)
Thursday 11th January	Young Voices
Monday 15th January	Academy Photographers - Class groups
Monday 15th January	Deadline for reception applications
Wednesday 17th January	Y2 and Y6 SATS information evening 6pm
Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February	Half term
Thursday 1st Feb	English Afternoon and evening 9-10am & 6-7pm
Friday 9th February	Watch me learn 9am
Tuesday 20th February	Y3 Swimming (x5 weeks)
Tuesday 5th March	Parent Target meeting (in person) 3.30-6pm Parent Target meeting (school cloud) 5.30-8pm
Wednesday 6th March	
Thursday 7th March	World book day
Friday 8th March	Foundation stage - Mother day activities
Friday 8th March	Mother day breakfast
Friday 8th March	Mothers day Liturgy
Tuesday 19th March	Foundation stage Easter bonnet parade
Friday 22nd March	Stations of the Cross Liturgy
Friday 22nd March	School closes

### Term Dates

(See above for Autumn term dates)

### **SPRING TERM**

School closed to pupils—Inset day Monday 8th January

School opens to pupils on Tuesday 9th January

**Half Term Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February**

School opens to pupils Monday 19th February

School Closes Friday 22nd March