

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As we lit the third candle in our Advent Wreath this week, we thought together about 'joy'. In Churches across the world this week, as that third pink candle has been lit, Christians will have been thinking about joy and rejoicing.



Some of our Year 6 children developed their own explanation of joy as Christians understand it, they called it 'A deep happiness that cannot be shaken by the little things'. I think this is a great definition! Joy is not about that fleeting happiness of something going well, a sudden smile, or momentary good feeling, it is about something much deeper and longer lasting, something that is not simply about our circumstances or a passing feeling.

The Jewish culture understands joy and ensures that this is built into their rituals. In the Old Testament, as the people would journey to the temple to worship, they would recite together the reasons for their joy, they would be thankful and share together their thankfulness.

As part of our ongoing thoughts about thankfulness, our Value for the month, I set the children a task of sharing with each other, for one minute, without pausing, the reasons that they have to be thankful. The hall was full of children excitedly sharing all the things they are thankful for and reminded all of us that both individually and collectively, even with the challenges facing our nation at this time, we have *a lot* to be thankful for.

I imagine that there would have been a lot of ears burning around our community on Monday morning as children shared how thankful they are for their parents and wider family, for their homes and for the opportunities that they have.

I too am grateful for you as a parent body. After two years of Covid-19, it has been wonderful this year to be able to welcome you into school and church, without restriction, to celebrate this season with us. I have really valued the opportunity to talk with you and to share some of what we are doing in school with you.

Those of you in church would have heard Rev Simon Kirby talk about a Harvard Study, which confirmed that spending time each week being thankful and actively noting things to be thankful for, resulted in people not just feeling more optimistic, but also being physically healthier.

And so, as we continue our journey through this busy season, I encourage you, as I have encouraged children and staff, to pause every now and again and remember to be thankful. If the science is right, we will all feel better for it!

School lunches

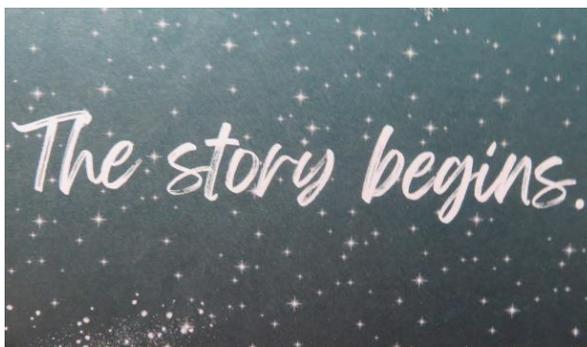
We are changing the way that you will book school lunches for your children.

From now on, whether you pay for your child's lunches or not, you must book meals via ParentPay. We have sent home instructions already, but we have also attached them as a reminder to this newsletter.

Please remember that, if you pay for meals, you must pay for any meals that you have ordered within two hours of booking. If you do not pay for the meals the order will be cancelled.

The new cut off for ordering meals for the following week will be midnight on Thursdays, but you can order meals for the whole term in advance if you wish to do so.

Christmas at St Mary's



This year will be my tenth Christmas as Vicar at St Mary's Cogges and in the last 10 years the world has changed quite a bit. None of us knows what the next 10 years will look like and some may be feeling a little more anxious about the uncertainty in our world. However, Christians believe that the Christmas story, which began over 2000 years ago, is one that brings hope, love, joy and peace to an anxious world. Why not join us at one of our events when we think again about how 'the story begins' and what a difference it can make for each of us.

May you know hope, love, joy and peace this Christmas,

Simon & all at St Mary's Cogges

We'd love to welcome you to...

Tuesday 20th December, 6-6.30pm
Community Carols
Bring a lantern! On French Square, Mailley Park (FREE mulled wine & mince pies on arrival)

Thursday 22nd December, 6-7pm
Carols in the Barn (Fully Booked)

Christmas Eve
3.30pm and 4.30pm Christingle
A family friendly service

11.30pm **Carols and Communion**
A traditional midnight service
Held in St Mary's Cogges Church building

Christmas Day
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Family Morning Worship
Held in St Mary's Cogges Church building

Oh yes it is!

On Monday afternoon all children in Years 1 – 6 will be watching the pantomime, Rapunzel.

If you have not done so already, please make sure that you have paid £3 via ParentPay.

To reduce the need for parents to fill in and return paperwork, making the payment is your permission for your child to watch the pantomime. If you do not make the payment, it will be assumed that you do not wish your child to watch the pantomime.

After school clubs next term

In the New Year, all our before and after-school clubs will restart. Many of our children enjoy the opportunities that these clubs provide to learn new skills, stay healthy and have fun with their friends.

In January, we are delighted to be able to offer a new club, which will enable children to learn Martial Arts skills – we have attached paperwork regarding this to this newsletter.

All other booking details for our clubs have been circulated already, if you have misplaced these, or would like further information, please do contact the school office.

Emma Baker, who runs our Jazz Dance class after school on a Friday, recently sent us this photo of children enjoying learning with her.



News from Around the School

It has been another week of children presenting to their parents and the school community. Children have given of their best and shown real courage in talking, singing, playing and acting in front of large audiences. It has been a great joy to watch children have an opportunity to flourish in a different sphere of school life. This week, our youngest children, who have only been in school for a matter of weeks, had the opportunity to share the Nativity story with their parents – they were as brilliant as the photographs suggest they were.



More News from Around the School

In church this week, children in Years 3 – 6 shared music, readings and carols as they also reflected on the Nativity story, at both services it was a joy to listen again to the choir sing. Many of you also took the opportunity to come and listen to the choir as part of our Friends raffle event. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets to help raise money for the school – your support is much appreciated.





Values Awards

Well done to all the children who this week earned a Values Award. This week, two whole classes of children won a Values Award!



100 club

Congratulations to our final winner for 2022, Becky Hince. Becky had ticket number 32, drawn at random by a member of our admin team. Congratulations Becky, enjoy your Christmas treat!

Thank-you to The Friends for organising this valuable money raising opportunity for the school.

Loving, learning and flourishing in community