

# William Martin CofE Schools and Nursery

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*Experiencing life in all its fullness*

## William Martin Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well what a brilliant term this has been, the children have had a great time enjoying the run up to the Christmas holidays. We have particularly enjoyed walking round the school hearing all the children practicing their songs for their Christmas shows - the singing has been really brilliant this year!

Mrs Parmenter is leaving us to join the St James' team, the whole staff would like to wish her lots of luck in her new adventure - she really will be missed!

Finally, we would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we hope you enjoy your holidays and look forward to seeing you all fully refreshed in the new year on the Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024!

### Experiencing Life In All Its Fullness

Reception performed their first Nativity and did such a fantastic job remembering their songs and telling The Christmas Story. We have enjoyed lots of Christmas stories, crafts and activities sent to us by the Kindness Elves in our classrooms.



Our Core Christian Values: Responsibility, Friendship, Perseverance, Justice, Courage, Truthfulness



Year 1 made diva lamps to celebrate Diwali



Year 6



As part of our "Living things and their habitats" Science topic, we have been learning about classification keys. Before we classified animals and plants, we generated questions based on the similarities and differences between different types of sweets. The concept of a classification key came from Carl Linnaeus and we have enjoyed learning about his ideas!



### Santa Dash/Rudolph Run- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December



Thank you to for your donations to St Clare Hospice on our Santa Dash/Rudolph Run day, we raised £147.43 and great fun was had by all!



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## Whole School Christingle Service at St Stephen's Church- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

We had a beautiful service at the church on Monday where the whole school joined in song and prayer at a Christingle Service. Our head pupils and worship ambassadors led the service.



### Fundraising

We would like to say a massive thank you to Ria Maxwell who has now stepped down as chair of the PTA and handed over the reins to a new team, led by Holly Blunderfield.

A BIG thank you to the PTA for running a fantastic Christmas Fayre; setting up amazing Christmas decorations; purchasing a speaker and microphone system and providing refreshments at all the Christmas performances!

Thank you for your kind and generous donations for the Christmas performances which collectively raised £624.09. The individual year groups have their funds to spend on enrichment activities.

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Support Services Coffee Morning and Cake Sale (Junior Hall)



There will be another opportunity to speak to a variety of support services on 18<sup>th</sup> January. No need to book- just drop in and grab yourself a cake of two while you're here! More details to follow in January.

**PE Days-** PE will be starting back up straight after the Christmas break on the following days:

Year Group	Day to Wear PE Kit to school
Reception	PE kit should be in school every day
Year 1	Thursday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Tuesday Swimming Kit
Year 5	Monday
Year 6	Tuesday

### Attendance and Punctuality

We have seen increased numbers of pupils being late for school over the last few weeks. All pupils must be in school by **8.50am**. Pupils arriving late to school causes disruption to their learning as well as others, which is unacceptable and can be upsetting for them and their classmates. If your child is significantly late (after 9.15am), without a valid reason, they will receive a U code in the register which counts as an absence and may result in a fine. If your child is persistently late you will receive a letter from school and may be invited to meet with the Education Welfare Officer.



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## Safety Reminders- before and after school

Can we please remind all parents that bikes and scooters must not be ridden on the school grounds and any equipment found should be returned to the staff member on duty and not played with. The junior play area is strictly out of bounds and must not be used by anyone. Lastly, a reminder that parents should not be within the school building unless signed in through the office or escorted by a member of staff- this is for the safety of all members of the school community.

### A safety reminder from Essex Police

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit [www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings](http://www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings) for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe

### Reception 2024 Places- School Tours

If your child is due to start school in September 2024, we have school tours for you to view our school. Please call the office or email [admin.williammartin@dcvst.org](mailto:admin.williammartin@dcvst.org) to book a place:

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January @ 9.30am

Online applications can be made for a Reception school place between 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Year 3 Places- September 2024

If your child is in year 2, you need to complete an application form for their year 3 place by 15<sup>th</sup> January. [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions)

Best wishes,

Gina Bailey

Executive Headteacher

Claire Kearney

Head of School



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Value of this next term: Perseverance

Dates for your diary



**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Last day of term- early closure 1.15./1.20pm finish time.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January:** Christmas Holidays including INSET days on 4/1/24, 5/1/24

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January:** First day of the Spring Term

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 4 begin Swimming lessons at Harlow Leisurezone

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 2 History off the Page Workshop Day

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 6 History off the Page Workshop Day

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January:** Choir to Young Voices at the O2

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Year 1 Castle Workshop Day

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January:** Support Services Coffee Morning and Cake Sale (Junior Hall)

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January:** YR and Y5 Road Safety Training

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February:** Safer Internet Day

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February:** Last day of term (Normal finish time)

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February:** Half Term

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February:** Start of Spring Term 2

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February:** Parent/Teacher Consultations- a separate letter will be sent

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March:** Red Nose Day and Young Carers Recognition Day

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 3 to West Stow

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 4 Those History People Ancient Greek Workshop Day

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Reception to Boydell's Farm

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Last day of term (Early Finish)



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