



RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY AT ST MARY'S

We are on the lookout for a new **Senior Office Administrator** to take up post in **January 2024**. You can find out more information regarding the post and apply here:

https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Senior_Administration_Assistant/255598.

This is a great opportunity for a dynamic, adaptable, hardworking individual who is passionate about working in a school environment such as ours to come and be a valued member of our fantastic team. Please consider whether you – or someone you know – has the requisite skills and personal attributes to take up the challenge.

The advert closes on Monday 11th December 2023.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 200 CLUB:

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been made aware of an unexpected issue with our Friends of St Mary's bank account which has meant that the account has been closed and funds contained within it will be transferred to school.

As such, it is very important that anyone who pays into the account cancels their standing order or direct debit.

Please spread the word to anyone who you know who may be in this position.

Those in receipt of recent prizes from the 200 Club draw have been contacted individually.

We will issue instructions as to how you can set up a new standing order/direct debit in due course.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience at this time.

Yours Faithfully,

J Wheatley
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please send pupils' costumes into school on Monday if you have not done so already. Thank you.
 - Please complete the following form if you (or another family member) would like to attend our community 'Christmas crafts with the kids' event on Monday 18th December 2023:
<https://forms.office.com/e/MuuLLECLqW>.
 - Pupils should do the following this week:
 - Bring in their string instruments for whole class and small group tuition.
 - Wear their PE kit on the usual days.
 - Y4 bring in their swimming kit on Thursday.
 - Tennis and Happy Feet are both on this week for their last session of the term. Gymnastics has already finished for the year.
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SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS:

This week, we celebrated the first week of Advent, with hopeful hearts for the joyous coming of our Lord, Jesus at Christmas. It has been wonderful to begin our Adventen preparations in earnest this week: to see the children taking part in daily acts of prayer and worship, to hear their beautiful singing and share with them their learning.

This weekend, we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent. As we light the second purple candle on our Advent wreath, and continue our journey towards Christmas, we pray for peace.

During this season of Advent, may we all make time for the peace of Christ to enter our lives: time away from the mania and noise of festive preparations; time away from the distractions of materialism which cloud our view of the world in which we live; time away from behaviours and routines which build barriers between ourselves and God. We pray too for those who, for so many reasons, face immense struggles to experience peace in their own lives and consider ways in which we can help to make a difference to the lives of those in most need.

Come, Lord Jesus, come that we all might experience Your peaceful embrace in our daily lives this Advent.

'REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR' APPEAL:

Please could all donations for the 'reverse Advent calendar' appeal be sent into school by **Monday 18th December**.

CHRISTMAS PLAYS:

We are excited to welcome you into school next week for one (or more) of our Christmas play performances. Please remember that the plays are open to all friends and family of the school and tickets are not required.

Pupils will be running through their plays one last time in a dress rehearsal on Monday, so please could all costumes be sent into school by then. As ever, if there are any issues with this, please just contact the school office and we will do what we can to help.

CHRISTMAS PLAY	DATES/TIMES
Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play	Performance 1 Thursday 14.12.23 10am Performance 2 Friday 15.12.23 10am
Year 3 and 4 Christmas Play	Performance 1 Tuesday 12.12.23 2pm Performance 2 Wednesday 13.12.23 9:30am
Year 5 and 6 Christmas Play	Performance 1 Tuesday 12.12.23 9:30am Performance 2 Wednesday 13.12.23 2pm

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS WITH THE KIDS:

We would love parents/carers, friends and family to join us in school to help out pupils with some festive themed crafts on Monday 18th December.

If you have not yet indicated that you would like to be in attendance, please do so by **Monday 10th December** via the form: <https://forms.office.com/e/MuuLLECLqW>.

We will communicate the timings for the event by the end of the week.

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

If you have a child in KS2 who would like to join us for our Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 20th December, please ensure that you pay in advance via the school Arbor system (<https://stmw-bwcet.uk.arbor.sc/>).

Meals for pupils in KS1 are free as normal.

TERM DATES:

Please be reminded that school will close for Christmas on **Friday 22nd December**.

The first day of term for pupils is **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.