



Christmas Newsletter - December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, a huge well done to every member of the St Mary's School community for a fantastic festive season, beating the odds, and raising some phenomenal amounts of money for the School and the School's charities. November looked bleak but we have been so impressed by the tireless enthusiasm of our Reps, pupils, parents and volunteers, and have been overwhelmed by the support the School has received. Thank you!

Fundraising Update

Money raised for our school

St. Mary's Christmas Cards & Mugs	£	1,355
Art Auction	£	590
Chocolate Challenge Truffle Making	£	559
Supermarket Sweep Raffle	£	138
Splattercraft	£	78

Donations

Lottery/Easy Fundraising/Amazon Smile	£	143
Anonymous Donations	£	105
2nd Hand Uniform Sales	£	46

Money raised for our community

Barn Theatre Food Bank Collection	£	900
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Chocolate Challenge

Many took to the St Mary's chocolate truffle making challenge on Friday, 27th November with expert chocolatier from www.mychocolate.co.uk teaching his worthy students via Zoom over the course of the evening. In doing so, parents raised £559 for the School.



Lots of lucky family members will be receiving the wonderful creations that were made during the evening, learning a very valuable life skill, and we were chuffed so many took part and had lots of fun in the process.

St. Mary's Christmas Cards & Mugs

Further to the last article, a further amount of money has been raised from the Christmas Cards and Christmas Mugs initiative and the grand total raised was £1355. HUGE thanks to Lucy Luscombe and the School Office for their brilliant support.

Supermarket Sweep Raffle

We sold just over 138 ticket for a chance of winning a brilliant £50 voucher just in time for Christmas. The lucky winner was announced on 16th December and the prize delivered personally by our very own Chair! Our thanks go to Mrs Lewis for her work with Morrisons and affording us this opportunity to share with you.

Tandridge Heights Stars

What can we say; the stars for Tandridge Heights Nursing Home were absolutely stunning and it was a pleasure to deliver them to the staff and residents who were absolutely delighted to see all the children's designs. It was lovely to spread some St. Mary's festive cheer and joy to those who haven't been able to leave the Home for some time and it was lovely to put smiles on lots of faces. We received a lovely 'Thank you' card from the manager – our stars were clearly very much appreciated.



Uniform Selling

St. Mary's parents have taken very well to selling uniform via our Facebook page or contacting the PTA email address (smoxted.pta@gmail.com) with requests. It hasn't been easy due to PE kits being in very short supply and Swots having supply difficulties.

Splattercraft

We hope you all enjoyed making that much-loved mince pie plate or festive bowl and the opportunity to decorate your own choice of crockery for a unique Christmas present! We saw some amazing designs and have raised £78 so far!

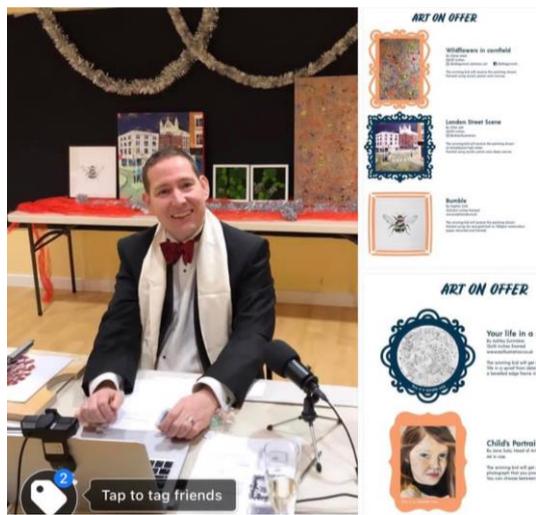


Royal Marsden Treat Box

Thank you so much for providing some fantastic donations which will be delivered on 7th December.

Art Auction

One of the highlights this Christmas was the first ever St Mary's virtual Art Auction held on the 8th December and was a hugely successful night. Each lot was sold and there was some tense bidding across the evening showing the true grit and determination amongst our parent community. The grand total raised was just short of £600 which is more than we could have ever wished for.



Marcus was a fantastically entertaining auctioneer and did such a great job in keeping everyone informed and engaged! And, of course, a huge thank you to the wonderful Artists for donating such beautiful pieces in aid of the School - we are forever grateful for your kindness.

Food Bank Collection



On the 11th December we saw our very own Chair dressed as a full-size Turkey, Father Christmas's, Elves, a chilli, a doughnut, and even Rep, Sarah Parker, as a 'food bank', adorn the school entrances (no one could escape us!). Once again, the St. Mary's generosity showed in spectacular style and with our £900 – from ONE DAY – we managed to achieve the Barn Theatres target of £2500.



Forthcoming Fundraising Events

- **Children's Pantomime:** We are so pleased to announce that the St. Mary's PTA will be funding a Pantomime performance for the children in way for us to give back to our wonderful school community. They Pantomime company have managed to come up with a show which follows COVID-19 guidance, and which will run over two days in order to retain bubbles. The whole school will see the production and parents will receive video recordings. Further details to follow.
- **Feed the Library Campaign:** 2021 will be a very exciting year for the Infant site Library. A transformation project is set to start in the new year creating a wonderful reading and learning space in the form of a brand-new Library for all pupils! We look forward to sharing the Caterpillar's St Mary's journey with you and sending details on how you can take part in 'feeding the library' very soon.

As we come to the end of an astonishingly hard year, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable break and look forward to returning in 2021 with renewed vigour for the spring term.

Our enormous thanks to everyone who has supported the PTA team so enthusiastically, especially the hardy Reps who have spread the word, volunteered their time and generally been brilliant.

In the words of Socrates, *“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new”*.

We hope you have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Rebecca, Donna and Rosie