



December 5th 2025

Reception Nativity

Today we had a real treat as our Reception children performed their Nativity '*A Bundle of Joy*' to their families. All of the children did so well, remembering transitions, the songs and actions and their lines. It is not easy an easy job for 4 and 5 year olds and they did a great job. They looked amazing in their costumes too! Well done Reception!

It is not easy to direct and bring a performance together and I thank Miss Lauder, Miss Henderson and Miss Teasdale for their work on this. Thank you to everyone who came and supported their child. Thank you also to FOMS who provided refreshments before and after the performance.

Christmas Tree Festival

On Tuesday I joined Dr Blezard and more than 20 of our children who sang carols at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church. It was a lovely occasion and our carol singers started the festive events beautifully. It was nice to see our tree bedecked with artwork from Nursery-Year 2 and the whole church looked amazing. Thank you to Dr Blezard for leading the group and to Mrs Patterson and Mrs Lomax for decorating our tree.

Nursery Christmas Singalong

Next to take to the stage are our youngest pupils as they perform their Nursery Christmas Singalong. This is always great fun and I look forward to seeing families of our Nursery children at 2pm on Wednesday, December 10th.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday, December 12th we will have our annual Christmas Jumper Day. This is not a charity day for us and is just for fun. Do not worry if your child does not have a Christmas jumper, we can be creative in school if that is the case.

Christmas Carol Service

Friday, December 12th is also our Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's for our children in Y3-6. We aim to start at around 1.30pm. I know from talking to parents/carers and families over the years how much this event is cherished and I look forward to seeing you there.

Year 5 Swimming

We have had our last swimming session for our Year 5 children for 2025.

Swimming will recommence for Year 5 children on January 15th 2026.

Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performances

Year 1 and 2's performances of 'Hey Ewe' will be on Tuesday 16th December. There will be two performances; one beginning at 1.30pm and the other at 6pm. Each family has been allocated 2 tickets for each performance. These have been sent home with children this week. If you do not require all of the tickets, we would appreciate it if you could return any extras to school. If you would like an extra ticket, please request this on the form included on the letter and any surplus tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. FOMS are running a refreshments stall at both performances.

Musical Performances

This week our musicians, who work with Mrs Unwin and Mrs Carr, performed in front of different classes in school. Mrs Unwin's children performed in front of our nursery children and Mrs Carr's brass players played in front of the rest of the school. Both groups are making very good progress and look forward to performing to parents/carers in the Summer Term, alongside our pianists. Well done to all who performed this week.

Preloved Event

Thank you to Mrs Patterson for organising the pre-loved event on Monday. I hope that families picked up some useful items of clothing.

Reception Places for September 2026

The window for applications for Reception school places for children due to start school in September 2026 will close on January 15th 2026. School Admissions at the Local Authority organise this. Please see further information [here](#).

Dates for the Diary

As we near the end of the year, we have added the Spring dates to the Dates for the Diary section.

Attendance

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Year 2!

Class	Attendance this week (%)
Reception	97.7
Year 1	97.3
Year 2	99.3
Year 3	98.6
Year 4	93.7
Year 5	95.7
Year 6	90
Whole School	96%

Dates for the Diary

December 10 th	Nursery Christmas Singalong (pm)
December 10 th	Christmas Lunch
December 12 th	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Christmas Carol Concert and Christmas Jumper Day 1.30pm start at St Marys
December 15 th	Reception-Y6 to the pantomime at The Witham
December 16 th	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Play (1.30pm and 6pm starts)
December 17 th -19 th	Christmas Parties
December 22 nd - Jan 2 nd	Christmas Holidays
January 5 th	Children return to school
February 6 th	Sportshall Athletics at Teesdale Leisure Centre
February 11 th	EYFS/Years 1 and 2 Valentine's Disco
February 12 th	Years 3 and 4 Valentine's Disco
February 13 th	Years 5 and 6 Valentine's Disco
February 17 th	Dance Event – selected children R-Y6; venue tbc
February 17 th and 18 th	Parents/Carers Evenings
February 19 th	Multi-skills (all Y1) at Staindrop Academy
February 23 rd – 27 th	Half Term
March 2 nd	Children return to school
March 20 th	Badminton Y5/6 (2 teams)
March 23 rd	Multi-skills (all Y6) Staindrop Academy
March 25 th	Football Y2 at Staindrop Academy
March 27 th	Girls Football Y4-6 at St Johns
March 30 th	Orienteering (all Y4) at Staindrop
March 31 st	Tennis (all Y3) at Parkside

March 31 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Years 3 and 4 School Play 6pm
April 1 st	Multi-skills (all Reception)
April 3 rd – 17 th	Easter Holiday
April 20 th	Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

