Dear Parent,

If you have any particular problems or questions please feel free to email me (head@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk), catch me on the playground or call to make an appointment to see me.

Liam Jordan (Head Teacher)

Smart Watches: A number of children have obviously received some amazing smart watches from Father Christmas and are rightly very proud of them. Unfortunately, pupils are not permitted to wear these watches to school as they often have cameras / recording functions, can cause distractions and are expensive to replace if they get broken or go missing.

Year 3 Science: The class investigated the three different stages of rock formation; Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic. We began by applying lots of pressure to the sediment (starburst pieces!). This process is called compaction. Over time, water is pushed out from these layers and the process of cementation occurs.

Next, we added some heat (using our hands) to our sedimentary rocks to change the chemicals of the rock into a metamorphic rock.

The children showed a really good understanding of the concepts and very much enjoyed the practical work (particularly eating their ‘rocks’ afterwards!)

Sumdog St Mary’s January Maths Challenge (Years 3-6)

This month’s event is a challenge with pupils able to earn 20 House points, and be entered in to a prize draw (taking place during next Friday’s Awards Assembly) if they complete all 300 questions.

The challenge is now open and ends at 19:00 on Wednesday 22nd January.

All pupils in Junior classes have Sumdog logins and are expected to complete the challenge (as an additional homework task).

St Mary’s Playgroup: We currently have spaces in our younger playgroup sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays 9 -12pm (no lunch). If you have a child aged 2.5 years old – preschool age and are interested in them attending please contact the Playgroup Team on 07706 496284 or email playgroupstmarys@yahoo.co.uk

Girls’ 5-a-side Football

The Girls’ team competed in the annual Gloucester Girls’ 5-a-side event at Bentham Domes this week, with seven teams all vying for a place at the finals night.

The team started slowly, taking some time to adapt to the speed and intensity of the indoor game. Despite enjoying the lion's share of the possession against Waterwells our shots did not trouble the goalkeeper and the opposition scored on the break. We scored in each of our next two matches earning our first victory and a second defeat.

The final three games saw our best performances with a narrow defeat to eventual league winners Hempsted followed by two thumping victories against Robinswood and local rivals Churchdown. Allegra ventured out from goal for those final two games and amassed an impressive eight goals!

St Mary’s finished third of seven teams overall, narrowly missing out on progression. The girls performed really well and improved steadily throughout the tournament - great effort!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0:1 Vs Waterwells</th>
<th>1:3 Vs Widden (scorer: Carla)</th>
<th>1:0 Vs Finlay (scorer: Carla)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:1 Vs Hempsted</td>
<td>5:0 Vs Robinswood (scorer: Allegra)</td>
<td>4:0 Vs Churchdown (scorer: Allegra)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TEXTING SCHOOL - is for reporting absence only – the text system is only checked early morning for absences. Please do not text any other type of message as it will not be seen. The only exception to this is if you receive a text from school requesting a reply. To inform the office of pick-up arrangements/appointments/general enquiries, etc. please email the school office admin@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk Thank you.

**House Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YR</th>
<th>Ruby 1147</th>
<th>Sapphire 1349</th>
<th>Amber 974</th>
<th>Emerald 1142</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EYFS</td>
<td>1st Grace</td>
<td>1st Florence</td>
<td>1st Amira</td>
<td>1st Emilia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>2nd Betty</td>
<td>2nd Emmanuel</td>
<td>2nd Amelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Toby</td>
<td>3rd Matteo</td>
<td>3rd Kezia</td>
<td>3rd Toby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Free Parenting Course**

On Wednesday the 22nd of January there is a free Solihull parenting course running at Innsworth Junior School and parents in the Gloucester area are welcome to attend, any are welcome to attend. The course last for 10 weeks and is 2 hours long, 9.30am-11.30am. If you would like further information about the course, please see the attached flyer. Places can be booked by contacting Lauren Whitehurst, Family Support Worker Tel: 0300 365 8999 Ext 509

**Year 4 Clarinets**

The children commenced their programme of whole class clarinet tuition this week. Under the expert guidance of Maureen Currie (music teacher from Gloucestershire Music) the children will become familiar with the workings of their instruments, learn to play a range of notes in time and combine to play full musical pieces.

The class are obviously really enjoying the opportunity to learn an instrument. You will be able to see how well the children have progressed at the concert for parents that takes place at the end of the programme.

Clarinet will be available for hire for use at home (£10 fee), further details will be sent home via letter on Monday.

**Stars of the Week**

**Reception**

- **Freddie Fuller** – for showing kindness and setting a great example to the class.

**Year 1**

- **Zoe & Danielle**

**Year 2**

- **Emmanuel & Kezia**

**Year 3**

- **Olivia & Neave**

**Year 4**

- **Damian & Ryan Pa**

**Year 5**

- **Monty & Ciaran**

**Year 6**

- **Quentino & Szymon**

**GROWTH MINSET Awards**

- **Year 1** - Zoe & Danielle
- **Year 2** - Emmanuel & Kezia
- **Year 3** - Olivia & Neave
- **Year 4** - Damian & Ryan Pa
- **Year 5** - Monty & Ciaran
- **Year 6** - Quentino & Szymon

**OFSTED Parent View**

http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/

Parent View is the online medium by which parents can record their views about a school and it is important that the views of our parents are logged on the site.

There is now a direct link to the registration process on the School Gateway app.

We would be really grateful if you could find a few minutes to visit the Parent view site and submit a questionnaire.