Dear Parents/Carers,

The weather has definitely started to get colder this week, as well the constant rain(!) so please ensure that children have coats with them every day in school. I’m afraid that it’s another long newsletter today so please read right to the end so that you know about everything that is coming up.

Mr Scarrett
As sent in an e-mail this week, we are hosting a leaving event for Mr Scarrett on Wednesday 13th November. The children will be having a leaving assembly (unfortunately we cannot invite parents as the hall will be full) followed by an afternoon tea. Parents, families and those with links to the school are invited to come to St. Mary’s school hall from 3.10pm to join us in saying goodbye to Mr Scarrett. We are hoping to give Mr Scarrett his leaving gift from the school on this date so please send your contributions into the school office by Monday morning 11th November in an envelope marked ‘Collection for Mr Scarrett’. Alternatively, if you would like to give you own cards/gifts please also pass these to the office or bring them on the day. PFSM have purchased a book that can be signed by parents and this will be available to sign from 2.45pm on Friday 8th November and then at school drop off and pick up on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th.

Parent helpers
We are looking for parent helpers that are able to support us in school by listening to readers. There are lots of classes without any helpers and they do make a big difference to the staff and children in school. You don’t need to have a lot of time available as staying after you have dropped your child off in the morning until 9.30am is a great help. If you are interested in becoming a parent reader or are currently involved in listening to readers in school, we are offering a workshop on Friday 22nd November from 9.00 – 9.30am where we will share more about the expectations and give clarity about the role. All regular volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application form and have a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Information about our volunteer checks can be collected from the school office.

Uniform sale
PFSM will be holding a uniform sale on Tuesday 19th November after school. This will be in the school hall and second-hand uniform will be available for purchase.

Non-uniform day
There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 22nd November in preparation for the PFSM Christmas Fayre. The ‘fine’ will be an item for the Fayre such as sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks
in plastic bottles, gifts, soft toys, tombola prizes etc. These can be brought in and taken into the hall on this Friday.

Cake sale & non-uniform day
We have a few fundraising events taking place next week and in particular are raising money for Children in Need and a charity called Just One Tree. Money raised will be split between the charities and the money going to Just One Tree will be used to plant trees.  
14th November – Cake sale (donations please!) in aid of Children in Need and Just One Tree, 50p per cake  
15th November – Non-school uniform day. To dress up as colourful as possible! Donation of 50p – prize for the most colourful person!

St. Mary’s Church – Pet Service
On Sunday 24th November at 3pm St. Mary’s Church, Bideford is hosting a pet service. Everyone is welcome to come along and bring their pets.

MTA vacancy
We currently have a vacancy for a Meal Time Assistant. The deadline for applications is Friday 15th November at noon. If you would like more information, please go to our school website to download an application pack.

Choir events
Our school choir will be involved in singing at the events below. Further information will be given about other dates when they have been confirmed.  
Thursday 12th December – Affinity Outlet (Atlantic Village) – 6pm  
Saturday 14th December – Pannier Market (Hospice Service – Light Up A Life)

Class acts of worship
Every year the children lead a class act of worship that their parents are invited to come along to. Please see the list below for the coming year and make a note of the date. The act of worship will start at 9.10am.  
Friday 15th November – Merlins  
Friday 24th January – Wrens  
Friday 7th February – Jays  
Friday 14th February – Razorbills  
Friday 6th March – Bullfinches  
Friday 13th March – Kingfishers  
Friday 20th March – Foundation Stage  
Friday 27th March – Starlings  
Friday 24th April – Dunlins  
Friday 1st May – Barn Owls  
Friday 15th May – Blackbirds  
Friday 22nd May - Nightingales
Sports for Champions

Children will have come home with a sponsorship form this week for the work we are involved in with Sports for Champions. The deadline for returning these forms is Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} November. On Friday 29\textsuperscript{th} November we will be having a visit from the athlete Ezekiel Uwulu and all children need to bring their PE kit to school on that day.

Pokémon cards

We have an increasing number of children who are bringing in Pokémon cards and trading them with friends. We are happy to allow children to bring them in to school and swap with friends but all cards are brought into school at the children’s own risk. Staff members will not get involved with disputes or situations of ‘unfair swapping’ so please speak to your child at home about what they can and can’t do with their cards.

Wanted

If anybody has any spare football boots, football trainers or shin pads at home that are not needed then we would love to take them off your hands so that they can be utilised in school for children who do not have access to these items. Please send them to the school office or pass them to Miss B.

Christmas dates

We are in the process of creating an annual calendar with key dates for the whole year. We need to confirm a few more dates before this can be shared with parents after the holidays. Here are some key dates up to Christmas. More details will follow for these events.

- **Friday 29\textsuperscript{th} November** – Christmas Fayre – 3.15-5.30pm
- **Thursday 5\textsuperscript{th} December** – KS2 Advent Service – 9.10am (St. Mary’s Church)
- **Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} & Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} December** – KS1 performances to parents – 2pm
- **Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} December** – School discos – 5-6.30pm FS & KS1; 7-8.30pm KS2
- **Tuesday 17\textsuperscript{th} December** – Foundation Stage performance to parents – 9.20am
- **Tuesday 17\textsuperscript{th} & Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} December** – KS2 Carols around the tree – 6pm
- **Wednesday 18\textsuperscript{th} December** – Christmas lunch for children
- **Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} December** – KS2 Christingle Service – 9.10am (school hall)
- **Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} December** – KS2 Christingle Service – 2pm (St. Mary’s Church)

Upcoming events

- **Wednesday 13\textsuperscript{th} November** – Dunlins swimming
- **Thursday 14\textsuperscript{th} November** – Cake Sale (donations of cakes appreciated)
- **Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} November** – Non-uniform day for Children in Need
- **Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} November** – Merlins’ class act of worship
- **Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} – Thursday 21\textsuperscript{st} November** – Year 6 residential in London
- **Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} November** – Uniform sale – 3.10pm
- **Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} November** – Dunlins swimming
- **Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} November** – Non-uniform day for Christmas Fayre
- **Friday 22\textsuperscript{nd} November** – Volunteers workshop – 9.00-9.30am
- **Wednesday 27\textsuperscript{th} November** – Dunlins swimming

**Miss Tottle’s days at St. Mary’s next week are Tuesday 12\textsuperscript{th} pm, Wednesday 13\textsuperscript{th} and Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} November.**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at St. Mary’s C of E School is Mrs R O’Dell. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Miss Z Bailey and Miss N Tottle.