



Autumn Term Done!

Hello, Year 8, we have made it to the end of the first term. With the holiday's approaching it has been a strange term back in school, but we have all made it to the end. We have worked together, looking out for each other, and learning to use the one voice rule. We have received a free breakfast and some advent calendars due to our good behaviour. There have been some difficult times this term, but we have got through them together.

This Newsletter will look at what your positives of the term are and looking forward to the holidays.

Mrs Gash – Head of Year 8 (Best Job Ever!)

Season's greetings year 8!

We have completed our first term of year 8 and I would like to say well done on how you have settled back down into the routine of learning after what has been a very difficult and unsettled year.

I am very proud of the way you have embraced your lessons and dealt with all the Covid rules in and around school. Life has been difficult for everybody in some way and it is important that we continue to look after ourselves and each other (#bekind)

I would like you to enjoy the Christmas holidays with your families, spending time with the people that we love is very precious and important.

I think the one thing I will take from this year is to remember to appreciate the simple things that we have been unable to do and to make sure I let people know how much I appreciate them and am grateful they are in my life.

So, I will see you in 2021, remember that if you need anything over the holidays, I am still an email away.

Stay safe and merry Christmas

God bless you



"Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas." – Pope John XXIII

What have you all been up to?

A quick look at what the Tutor Groups have been up to.

Form	Attendance	Place
S	96.3%	4
A	95.1%	8
I	96.8%	2
N	95.2%	7
T	93.9%	9
B	96.4%	3
E	97.5%	1
D	95.8%	5
C	95.4%	6
O	93.6%	10

Form Attendance for this term.

Form	Positives	Place
S	1529	3
A	1493	4
I	1047	8
N	1267	5
T	1622	1
B	1075	6
E	1009	9
D	979	10
C	1572	2
O	1072	7

Form total positives for this term.

Mr Bennett

Happy Christmas to all year 8 students, parents and carers. This year 2020 may have not seemed like such a good one; but try, over the Christmas period to think about some of the positives that have come out of it. One of my positives is starting a new job, here at St Benedict! Thank you all so much for making me feel so welcome and I look forward to building strong working relationships with you all over the coming months and years. I do hope you all enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas, along with the people you love, and I'll see you all in 2021.

P.S eat some chocolate for me!!

Miss Hagen – Form 8S

What have we been up to this term?

- William did Remembrance Day with Scouts and made poppies out of pompoms!
- Lily has been busy baking cakes for her nan
- Winnie has also been doing lots of household chores helping out her parents
- Oliver has also been treating his parents by delivering breakfast in bed to his mum
- Erin has been working hard helping her sister with her work. Her sister is a Saint Mary's student, we look forward to welcoming her to the school soon! Jaylen has also been helping his younger brother with his Maths.

- Ciana celebrated pride month by making a beautiful banner and hanging it out for everyone to see

- Erin, her mum and little sister have walked/cycled 9 and 3/4 miles for a 9 and 3/4 Harry Potter medal. We also did another one to support bee's by walking 7 miles.

Message from Miss Hagen - Merry Christmas Everyone!

What a strange start to the school year, I am very much looking forward to 2021 and all the wonderful things we must look forward to!

Over Christmas I plan to perfect my bread making skills, make my first ever gingerbread house and go on

lots of long winter walks with the pooch to burn off all the bread and gingerbread I will be eating...

I am really looking forward to seeing my family for a day and playing lots of silly games, I have missed them all so much! I know you are all missing family and friends too, so I hope you get to see them safely this Christmas.

Stay safe everyone, I can't wait to see all your smiling faces in the new year.

Mr Moss – Form 8A

Since coming back to school in September, 8A have been fantastic. I cannot thank you all enough for your maturity and perseverance in this time and keeping together when changing form rooms.

I have received so many positive comments about you all from teachers that teach you as well as providing intervention. Your willingness to help others, accept new form members and help them around the school has brought out the beautiful nature of you all. Everyone pulled together to try to ensure the secret Santa would still happen this Christmas and many of you have already bought in your gifts. We will still do this when we return in January. I hope you all have the most wonderful Christmas. I plan to spend it with my family and eat as much food as I can. Take care and stay safe.

Miss Hayre - Form 8I

What have we been up to this term?

8I have created positive messages to be sent to year 3 students from St Mary's to help lift their spirits in their time of need.

Shreya also rescued a pigeon and tried to nurse it back to health. Angel and her football team has made it to the Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire finals and will play for the cup this Saturday! Other members of the form have started back at their afterschool clubs. Rionna, with her Filipino dance club, will be learning and recording a new dance soon. Julia has perfected her pikes in gymnastics and Shreya has also passed her latest piano exam. Adam and his mum have saved 2 dogs who were being mistreated by their owners.

Hoping everyone else had a great term back at school

We have organised a Secret Santa for us and we hope this will go ahead :) Also, we are looking forward to planning our assembly on Martin Luther King Jr in the New Year.

Miss Hill - Form 8N

What have we been up to this term?

We raised last year over £300 pounds for charity selling out breakfast bars and juice in a morning. Everyone got involved to help create messages and pictures of hope for the pupils of St. Mary's so that they could receive a little gift bag.

We also were the first form to perform an assembly this year.

- One pupil is proud of getting all her work done this term.

- one pupil is proud of getting better at his art.

- One pupil is proud of her behaviour and how hard she is working this term.

- One pupil is proud of her behaviour improving from year 7.

- Two pupils are proud of their grades and scores improving.

Message from Miss Hill – I am not seeing my family this year, but I am looking forward to seeing them again in 2021.

I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday. That you can take some time to relax. I can't wait to see you again in 2021.

Miss Cadet – Form 8T

8T has been very supportive and helpful this term, inside and outside of school.

Several pupils have given a lot of their time at home to help their parents and siblings.

There has also been a lot of helping others with homework or cheering people up when they were sad. Everyone has either given money, colouring books and pencils, or helped to write prayers for the pupils of St Mary's.

Miss Wickens – Form 8B

Form 8B were set the task of carrying out one good deed in the week before half term. They managed the following tasks as a form:

- Helped a friend complete homework x6
- Made a cake for the family.
- Made a coffee for their mum
- Took a laptop home so their brother could do his remote learning
- Helped to make dinner x 2
- Washed the dishes
- Helped tidy up the house x 2
- Helped a friend wash highlighter out of her hair x2
- Helped a friend (who had injured his leg) get home safely.
- Helped a friend learn a new skill on their bike.
- Worked hard in French to avoid getting any C1s or C2s and came off report.
- Gave a homeless man something to eat.

We have also won the advent calendar prize for the most positives in a week (and least negatives) as a form!

For Christmas I plan on spending time with family, playing board games, going on winter walks, building a gingerbread house and eating as many festive treats as possible! We usually go to the pantomime this time of year, but instead I have given my children the task to write their own script for a pantomime, design some costumes and we will perform it together as a family on Christmas day!

Mrs Clewes- Form 8E

8E are dealing well with remote learning and regularly accessing and completed the work to their usual high standard. We are very proud of the way they has coped with the very difficult first term back at school and it is a joy to see their smiling faces first thing in the morning. We won second place in the Advent calendar competition, hurrah – next year first place! As a form

they are very caring, and they ask after each other and also Miss Laing and I.

My plans for the holidays involve walking my dog, watching lots of Christmas films and eating chocolate with my family.

Mr Long - Form 8D

Food Bank Donation

As a tutor group, we had been collecting Easter Eggs for a charity tombola that was planned for just before the Easter holiday.

Due to the onset of COVID, we were unable to do this and so the eggs sat in my cupboard.

As they neared their eat-by date, we had a choice.

Either I eat them which, though appealing, was not the appropriate action, or we donate them to a foodbank.

I found one near Burton who were delighted to accept them.

A few weeks later, I received a letter from them.

A Long Walk

During lockdown, Chloe Cheshire (8D) and her brother, Jack, walked over a quarter of a million steps to raise money for charity. This is the school newsletter article about their amazing achievement.

<http://saintben.derby.sch.uk/content/year-7-student-and-brother-complete-290000-steps-and-raise-over-1000-for-charity/>

Well done, Chloe.

Just doing our bit. Since returning from lockdown, our tutor group

have done whatever has been asked to support those in need.

We have especially joined in with the support for our friends and colleagues at St Mary's School following the awful fire.

We have coloured butterflies, written messages of hope, and donated many novels, colouring pencils, and activity books.

We also keep in mind those children and staff at Ravensdale school, as we have many students who are former pupils and have younger siblings there.

Finally, despite being the first-year group to be hit by the self-isolating measures (and wasn't it quiet in form time!), we have continued to smile and laugh. That must be the greatest achievement this term.

Message from Mr Long - We are going to have a very quiet Christmas this year, with just three of us at home.

We're going to have a family Zoom call on Boxing Day which will cross three continents. My nephew in Hong Kong will be joining my sister in New York, with the rest of us in the middle.

It is our 25th wedding anniversary at the end of December and we will celebrate as best we can in these COVID-restricted times.

Apart from that it will be chocolate, Netflix and maybe a small glass of wine.

Have a lovely Christmas break.

Mr Tomlinson - Form 8C

What have we achieved this term?

8C had just settled back into our new routine when lots of them had to go off and self-isolate again – all pupils adapted to this superbly. We all supported St Mary's, writing messages and prayers, as well as donating resources to pupils in Year 3.

We have achieved lots over these weeks of September and October, new friends, new routines, and lots of positives as we settle into this new Covid world.

Thierry has learnt a new technique in art, some have completed games, learnt more ASL words. Sporting wise pupils have joined new teams and reached cup finals in football.

Musically pupils have improved their piano or keyboard skills

We have achieved well in assessments – especially Science ones.

Fadzai has learnt the alphabet in British Sign Language. We have made games on Scratch and learnt how to cook new recipes; we have taken part in auditions for the school online show. We have stayed positive despite everything that is going on around us and despite some of us having to work from home on more than one occasion.

Christmas plans

After not seeing them much since March lots of us are looking forward to spending time with our families, and of course opening our presents (and giving presents) and eating Christmas dinner.

Some have trips planned such as to the snow dome.

And as one of us put it our main aim over Christmas – don't catch Covid. Here's to a better 2021.

Miss Kureczko - Form 80

A big shout out to the pupils with the most positives in the Form:

Lacey
Alina
Saif
Dontae

Lacey is right at the top, with Alina and Saif in joined second and Dontae still in the top three.

I really do wish 80 a wonderful break and I hope that we get to have a more stable term in the spring! You have been awesome and resilient through it all!