

Weekly Newsletter  
Friday 11th November 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

*"And of course when the time came on that 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, pandemonium broke loose. Everybody went mad. Work finished; all the factories poured out; the sirens went off; crowds rushed around the streets. Even in the camp, there was no discipline or anything, everybody just broke loose. I think they let the prisoners out into the compound and they all joined up and all joined together and celebrated."*

Harold Boughton  
Royal Defence Corps  
Leigh POW Camp near Bolton

At this time of year, we must take some time to reflect on the past, the loss of lives through conflict and the need to pray at all times for peace. Many families are torn apart from the loss of life through war. We must never forget that the peace we know in this country is attributed to the sacrifices these men and women made. Services all over the country will be taking place this Sunday to help us remember.

The Sisters from the Convent joined us along with members of the British Legion as we observed a period of silence today. Every child was silent and respectful. Mrs McGarry and Mr Wilks led the chamber choir and orchestra with beautiful renditions of *Abide With Me* and *I Vow to Thee My Country*. Very well done to everyone.

Please look at Twitter for updated photographs.

Many thanks for your kind donations to The Poppy Appeal, a very worthy charity.

Mr J Sims  
Headteacher



WEEK BEGINNING 14th NOVEMBER

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup>

Odd Sock Day to start Anti Bullying Week

Y6 Workshop – Coping with Challenges

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Y4 Class Mass

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>

First Aid Training for KS2 Children

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

First Aid Training for KS2 Children  
Y3 Stone Age Day

#### UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November

The first day of Advent

#### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>/Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Fr John on site blessing crib figures

#### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

PA Event – Wreath Making

#### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December

PA selling preloved Christmas Jumpers

#### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Infant Nativity 1.30pm

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Junior Carol Concert at Christchurch

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Y3/Y4 Children at St George's Cathedral singing Christmas Carols

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Last Day of Term

SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

It has been agreed that, this year, instead of all the children writing Christmas cards to each other, that the children make one Christmas card to give to their class. This card can be handmade or shop bought – your child can choose. This decision has been made with two very important issues in mind: - our environment and the cost of living crisis.

The cards will on display in the classrooms for all the children and staff to enjoy.

Christmas parties will take place for all the classes before the end of term. The children will enjoy festive fun and games and we do not require any food contributions from parents.

Thank you for your support.

## ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week take place next week at St Mary's.

This year the theme is **Reach Out**. This theme focuses our attention on how we can find support and support one another when friendship problems arise or feelings are hurt. During the week, awareness will be raised about what bullying is and how important it is to everyone at St Mary's that we show friendship, compassion and care to one another. Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone both in school, at home, in the community or online, to reach out and show each other the support we need.

The children will be doing various activities in their PSHE lessons this week and taking part in key stage assemblies to mark the week.

To promote this important week, the children and staff are invited to take part in **Odd Sock Day**. Wearing different socks will demonstrate how we are all different and how we must all accept each other despite differences.

Normal school uniform will be required but the children can wear socks of any colour and style as long as they are odd.

For more information about Anti Bullying Week, please visit the following website:

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Online bullying is a serious issue that children and parents need to be on top of. Please read the information attached with some helpful advice.

***In a world where you can be anything, be kind.***

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### This week.....

Stella Baldassarri Von Hogerthal, 2E, took part in the National Dance Finals in Blackpool. She came 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Tango and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Rumba! We might be seeing her in Strictly Come Dancing one day!



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs Whitewood would like to thank all the children who completed the half term project on *Black Chefs*.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we focus on a different aspect of black influences in our lives. We are always delighted at the creativity and effort that the children use to show their learning.



### SCHOOL COUNCIL

Members of the school council would like St Mary's to support the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year. Please think about how you can support this worthy charity, in a small way. The last day for donations is Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Please note that we do not want families to feel pressurised; only do what you and your family can afford to do.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

### PRELOVED UNIFORM SALE

We are holding a preloved uniform sale on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

Please come along to see if there is any uniform, you require. All items cost 50p.

### PA NEWS

The PA would like to thank all the families for coming to the fireworks evening last Saturday at Eltham Town FC. Events such as these could not happen without the support of the families at St Mary's. It was wonderful to see old and new faces enjoying the fireworks display and having a social evening with friends and family. They can also confirm that they made £3,500 profit! This is wonderful as all funds raised contributes to helping all the children at St Mary's.

#### Dates for your Diary:

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Wreath Making. This popular festive annual event will take place in the gym hall. More information about this exciting event and how to purchase tickets will be emailed to parents as soon as the details are confirmed. The tickets will cost £25 and this will include all the materials need to make a wreath with a little glass of mulled wine/prosecco and a mince pie!

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Preloved Christmas Jumper Day. The PA are holding a preloved Christmas jumper sale – time tbc. If you, or if you know anyone who has Christmas jumpers they no longer require, please bring them to the main office before Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Christmas jumper day will take place in school on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

### MUSIC NEWS

Please look out for information about the upcoming music events before Christmas. It is a busy time for the Chamber Choir!

Mr Wilkes, the wind instrument teacher, will not be on site to teach next Wednesday. He will make up any lost lessons.

### A MINDFUL MOMENT

*It really is the little things that  
mean the most of all,  
The "let me help you with that"  
things that may seem very small,  
The "I'll be glad to do it" things that  
make your cares much lighter,  
The "laugh with me, it's funny"  
things that make your outlook  
brighter.*

*The "never mind the trouble"  
things, the "yes, I understand",  
The interest and encouragement  
in everything you've planned,  
It really is the little things, the  
friendly word or smile,  
That add such happiness to life  
and make it more worthwhile.*

### APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION

If your child is in Nursery, you will need to apply for a place in Reception to start in September 2023. The deadline to submit your application is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Parents/carers will need to complete a St Mary's supplementary form; filled in and signed by your priest, and returned to the main office. They also need to apply to their local authority; details of this application form can be located online.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that the after school clubs will finish for this term the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please look out for information about rebooking clubs for the new term in January.

Emails will come from Mrs Jeffrey in the main office.

**SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE**