

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 12th December 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

At our school, we strive to nurture the values of kindness and empathy in our children, helping them to see the world through compassionate eyes and understand the importance of helping others. I can see that these values are present when I see the generous gifts that we have gathered for our charities this Christmas – the Sisters of Mercy and Demelza Hospice for Children. We are incredibly grateful to our families, whose kindness and generosity will bring joy to many children and families at this time.

I would also like to thank all those who supported our charity collection after the Nativity performances. We are so pleased to confirm that we collected £252 for Saint Vincent de Paul, a charity very close to our hearts at St Mary's.

I am sure you have seen in the news that flu cases are on the rise. Amidst all the hustle and bustle, looking after ourselves is so important. Please make sure to get plenty of quality rest and care for your families so we can all enjoy the precious Christmas season that is ahead.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS



Monday 15th December
Children's Christmas lunch

Tuesday 16th December
Instrument Concert for guitar pupils
3.30pm

Wednesday 17th December
Nursery and Infants Christmas Party Day.
Children in these year groups can wear their own clothes.

Junior Carol Concert. Christchurch. 2pm

Friday 20th December
Junior Children Christmas Party Day
Children from Y3 – Y6 can wear their own clothes.

Last day of this term. 2pm finish

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT CHRISTCHURCH

Please see below the timetable for Masses during the Christmas period at Christchurch.



CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASSES TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve Mass Thursday 24 th December	9:00 am 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 pm Vigil Mass Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Masses Thursday 24 th December	
Christmas Day Friday 25 th December	9:30am Children's Mass 11:30am Mass
Blessing Day (Mass of St. Stephen) Saturday 26 th December	12:00 noon 6:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 27 th December	9:30am Mass 11:30 am Mass 6:30pm Vigil Mass
Monday 28 th December	12:00 noon
Tuesday 29 th December	12:00 noon
Wednesday 30 th December	12:00 noon
New Year's Day - 1 st January 2021	12:00 noon



Christchurch Parish School - ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF GREENWICH & BROMLEY

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

ADVENT 2025

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle on the Advent Wreath, the rose candle, will be lit at Mass on Sunday. The priests will wear rose vestments to emphasise the joyous occasion that is coming.

An Advent Prayer

*"Heavenly Father, heal my heart during
this season of Advent.
Help me to love more fully.
To forgive more generously.
To wait more patiently for Christmas,
embracing each day and hour knowing
the joy that awaits.
In Your name, I pray.
Amen."*

JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT

The children from Y3 – Y6 will take part in the Junior Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 17th December in Christchurch at 2pm.

Parents and other family members are very welcome to join us. This is a beautiful service, sure to fill your heart with Christmas cheer. Please ensure you arrive early if you want a seat as the church fills up very quickly.

At the end of the Service, parents are welcome to take their children home straight from Christchurch. Any child not collected will return to school and leave at the usual time (3.15pm). Children will not be allowed to leave on their own from Christchurch.

Sometimes, parents are asked to collect other children so please let the teachers know, in advance, if these arrangements have been made.

Messages or emails can be sent to the main office where they will be passed to teachers. Safeguarding guidance must always be followed.

INFANT NATIVITY

This week, we welcomed families to see our Infant Nativity. The Nativity is such a special tradition, one that tells the Christmas story and reminds us of the real meaning of Christmas.

We hope you enjoyed seeing your children perform so beautifully.

The Nativity was recorded so once the recording is ready, we will email parents and carers who will be able to purchase it through Wisepay. It is a lovely recording that parents will be able to keep for posterity. Please look out for more information about this.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Many thanks for your support today.

The children and staff looked bright and joyful in their Christmas jumpers and we are able to make a donation to Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

Here is a selection of classes in their jumpers.

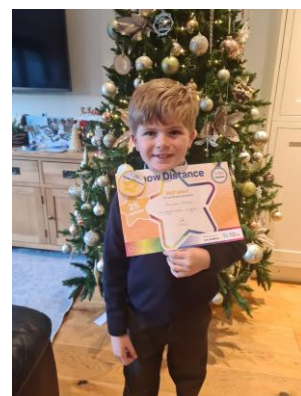


CHILDREN'S CORNER SWIMMING ACHIEVEMENTS

Rose Aslaner, 5L, recently passed her stage 7 with Swim England. Well done for achieving this.



James Porter, 2E, received his 25m badge this week and is now aiming for his 50m! Keep trying James and you will get there!



Fionn Doyle, 4I, passed stage 8 in his swimming group this week. Excellent swimming.



Y3 COOKING LESSON

This week Y3 have been baking!

The children made oatly flapjacks using natural ingredients and gluten free, egg free, dairy free, blueberry muffins.

They tasted what they had made and made suggestions on how to improve on the recipe.

Maybe they could try remaking them at home, with your help! Let us know how you get on.



Y5 DRAMA TRIP

Today, our Y5 children were invited to Bexley Grammar School to see their production of *Peter Pan*. They had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Many thanks to Mr Otley, the drama teacher at Bexley Grammar for inviting the children and to all the parent helpers who volunteered to accompany the classes.



SEWING CLUB

This half term, the Sewing Club with Mrs Perrin and Mrs Evans, have made some beautiful flower designs using cross stitch. There is some real talent amongst our sewers!



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 2026. The deadline to submit your application is Thursday 15th January 2026.

Parents/carers will need to ask their priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice and return the completed form with the parent's information form, original baptism certificate and a proof of address to the main office.

Parents/carers also need to apply to their local authority; details of the application forms can be located online.

<https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place/apply-primary-school-place/complete-primary-school>

The next open morning at St Mary's is on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 9.15am.

If you attend Christchurch and would like Fr John to sign your school form (nursery or reception) see remaining times below. Booking is not essential.

Date	Time
5 January	3pm – 5pm
9 January	3pm – 5pm
12 January	3pm – 5pm