

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 12th January 2024**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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*Nurturing Our God-Given Talents*

**WEEK BEGINNING 15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Closing Date for Application to Primary School  
Class C visit Christchurch

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Life Education Bus on Site  
Class D visit Christchurch

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Y6 Reconciliation  
Y4 Dodgeball Tournament at Eltham Hill School

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Y5/Y6 Tag Rugby Competition

**HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE**

Welcome back everyone!

The first week back has been busy but children have settled in very well. We celebrated the start of term with a Mass on Monday led by Father John, celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord.

It has certainly been a cold return and it is great to see everyone in their navy coats. We take real pride in our uniform so could I please remind parents that any hats, scarves or gloves should be navy coloured also.

Some of you have noticed that we are in the process of working on a small part of the infant playground and have levelled the area. Please can I say thank you to The Gannon family who have facilitated this to be done. Please keep an eye on this space as we will be developing it over the course of this year.

Please ensure you read the letter, sent earlier today, regarding the changes in the Wraparound care provision at St Mary's. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

**SENCO**

I am pleased that Mrs Henderson has joined the school staff and has officially started as our new school SENCO. She will be working in school from Monday to Thursday. Over the course of this term, she will be spending time getting to know the children and will be developing relationships with families. Please make her feel very welcome.

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Sims  
Headteacher

**LIFE EDUCATION BUS**

Our PSHE curriculum providers, Life Education, will be on site next week working with Reception, Y2, Y4 and Y6. They will be delivering interactive workshops on a number of themes, including mental wellbeing and resilience.

We are excited to welcome them and to visit their interactive working space, the Life Tent, once again.

Other year groups will have PHSE workshop opportunities at a later date.

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

## FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends shared the story of Epiphany. They made the gifts and acted out the story. They asked the children to draw pictures of the presents they would give to the baby Jesus.



## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Thomas and Dexter, RA, shared the story of The Three Kings visiting baby Jesus.

They asked their friends "What presents would you give to baby Jesus" Quinn, RA, said he would bring 'Love'.



## APPLYING TO ST MARY'S

If you are applying for your child to start Reception in September 2024, please be aware that the closing date for applications is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Everybody must apply online to Greenwich Council or your local authority if you do not live in Greenwich Borough, as **well as** providing a completed supplementary form to St Mary's. Please ensure all the supporting documents are provided with the form.

We cannot stress enough the importance of submitting the correct forms. Failure to do so could prevent your child from joining St Mary's in September.

## SPORTS NEWS

Blackheath Rugby Club are holding the rescheduled rugby tournament on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January for Y5/Y6 children at Hervey Road Sports Field. The children taking part have been informed.

The children will travel by bus to the festival, accompanied by Mr Sims and adult helpers. They will need to bring a packed lunch, water bottles along with some healthy snacks.

The weather is currently changeable so please ensure your child wears warm layers under their St Mary's PE kit and appropriate coats.

Parents will be informed of any changes to the schedule

### Dodgeball Competition:

Six children from Y4 have been chosen to participate in a dodgeball competition in Eltham Hill School on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Details have been sent to the parents of the children selected.

## LITERACY



*This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....*

Sisters  
Ages 3 – 6

Sisters share all your hopes  
and they soothe all your fears,  
As days drift to months and float  
into years.....

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Holly Churchill, 5K, and Pixie Scullion, 1C, were invited to place the Wise Men in the Christchurch crib last weekend. The crib will remain on display until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

A great honour for both girls.



Marcus Gonzales, 3G, successfully completed the second level of his skiing training in Tatra Mountains in Poland during his Christmas holiday.



Well done to all the children!

## OUR INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

As part of our efforts to make all St Mary's an even more welcoming school for our families, we plan on celebrating/commemorating the following days this academic year. The children in our Diversity and Inclusion Club are passionate about making our school more inclusive and will be involved in organising the events. More information will follow

**27<sup>th</sup> February:** Braille Day - Human Dignity

**25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Autism Acceptance Week - Solidarity

**22<sup>nd</sup> April:** Stephen Lawrence Day - Promoting Peace

**21<sup>st</sup> May:** Windrush Day Commemoration

Our Food and Fellowship event is also back this summer, where families can bring food from their cultures to share. This date will be shared with parents when it is confirmed.

These special days are also supported by our Diversity & Inclusion Group; a group of parents and school staff who meet throughout the year, helping the school to bring our diverse range of communities closer.

Please contact the main office if you would like to know more or would like to support the group's work.

## INFANT NATIVITY

The links to download the Infant Nativity have been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> January. If you would like a copy, please make a £5 payment on Wisepay and we will send the links to you.

The year groups that were involved in the Nativity were Reception, Y1 and Y2.

## BACK TO SCHOOL ILLNESS ADVICE

Please click on the following link for some helpful advice for parents as we start a new term at school. We are in the middle of the cold/flu season and it is important to follow practical steps to keep keeps colds at bay, for everyone to remain healthy.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-67894937>

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will be up and running from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please refer to the timetable attached to see the times and days. This has also been uploaded to our website.

[https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/CLUBS/After\\_School\\_Clubs\\_Timetable\\_Spring\\_2024\\_xlsx.pdf](https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/CLUBS/After_School_Clubs_Timetable_Spring_2024_xlsx.pdf)

We ask that all parents collect their children promptly when the session has finished. It has already been a long day for the children so parents should be on time to collect. Many thanks for your support.

## A New Year

***"Another fresh new year is here..."***

***Another year to live!***

***To banish worry, doubt and fear***

***To love and laugh and give!***

***This bright new year is given me***

***To live each day with zest...***

***To daily grow and try to be***

***My highest and my best!***

***I have the opportunity***

***Once more to right some wrongs, to pray for peace and to plant a tree***

***And sing more joyful songs!***