

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 16th
DECEMBER



Monday 16th December

Children's Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17th December

A secret visitor will be on site for the children!

Concert in the gym hall for the guitar students. 3.15pm

Wednesday 18th December

Junior Carol Concert. Christchurch. 2pm

Own clothes day for the Nursery and Infant children

PA Event – Christmas raffle results

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Panto for whole school

Friday 20th December

Own clothes day for the Junior children

Last day of this term. 2pm finish

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

This week, we welcomed families to see our Infant Nativity. The Nativity is such a special tradition, one that reminds us of the magic, wonder, and hope of this festive season. We hope you enjoyed seeing your children perform so beautifully.

Christmas reminds us of the power of small acts of kindness—whether it's sharing a smile, lending a helping hand, or simply taking time to be present with those around us.

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. These values were present when we gathered together all the gifts that we collected for the Sisters of Mercy. We are so grateful to our families who gave so generously and will help the many children who would otherwise have no gifts at Christmas.

Many thanks to Mr David Garrido, the CEO of SELCAT, who was able to lend a helping hand to load up the gifts.



Many thanks for supporting Christmas Jumper Day today and for your contributions to Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

I hope that you enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen
Head of School

ADVENT 2024

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."

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Children in Class D came together to reflect on their Advent promises. Bobby and Francesco decorated the focal area with purple cloth. Francesco shared a heartfelt prayer which he wrote at home. The children enjoyed talking about their Advent promises and how they are doing their best to keep them.



Rory and Jack in Class F prepared a beautiful prayer and liturgy for their class. They read the story of "A Wedding Party". Jack made a beautiful chalice and Rory demonstrated how the water was turned into wine by pouring squash. It was a magical moment.



FAITH FRIENDS

At their weekly lunchtime gathering today, the Faith Friends talked about Gaudete Sunday, when the pink candle on the Advent wreath will be lit at all Masses. This candle symbolises joy. The Faith Friends asked the younger children about things that made them feel joyful. On this Sunday, the priests wear pink vestments so the children designed their own vestments.

**Generous God,
We give you thanks for all the good things that you have happen to us.
Inspire us to share what we have so all people may live a full and happy life.
Amen**



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Fox Eskioglou, 1C, wanted to raise awareness of endangered animals so he made some posters to put up in his local shops.



Bethany Casey, RB, recently received her first gymnastics certificate.



Sophie Saunders, RB, recently passed her yellow belt grading in Ju Jitsu.



LITERACY



This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem.....

Peppermint Stick Anonymous

*I took a lick
Of a peppermint stick
And oh it tasted yummy!
It used to be
On the Christmas tree
But now it's in my tummy!*

JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT

The children from Y3 – Y6 will take part in the Junior Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 18th 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.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE

We would love to create a display in school that celebrates the diversity and heritage of our school community.

At this time of year, families come together to share Christmas traditions and foods and we would love to hear about them.

If you have family visiting from another country, are visiting another country, making something or taking part in an activity which reflects your culture or heritage we would love to hear about it.

Could you send something into school to share it with us?

It may be a postcard from another area, a photo of a particular style of outfit, a recipe/ photo of a dish that you have made, the way a house/ table are decorated or any other customs that you celebrate every year, please let us know.

Many thanks in advance and we look forward to learning about all the different ways that our pupils and their families have enjoyed the festive season.

Many thanks for your support.

PA NEWS

PA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle is still live! Please click on the link below to purchase a ticket (£1.10). Great prizes to be won. Tickets can be purchased until Monday 16th December.

<https://raffall.com/371880/enter-raffle-to-win-st-marys-pa-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-parents-association>

VISITOR IN RECEPTION

Many thanks to Saoirse's mum for coming to talk to the Reception children about Sri Lanka. She brought delicious fruits, lots of fascinating artefacts, and taught the children about the Esala Perahera Festival, which is celebrated each year. She wore stunning traditional attire. Reception A and B love learning about cultures from around the world.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that all after school clubs have finished for this term. Wraparound care will take place as normal.

The clubs will restart again in the new term.