

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 15th December 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

The guitar concert kicked off our week of celebrations and we were so impressed with all our players – thank you to Mrs McGarry for arranging as well as Stevie, our guitar teacher.

On Tuesday I took 18 students with Mrs Everett to the Sportshall Athletics. After track and field events, St Mary's were announced the winner and they qualified as Greenwich's representative in the regional finals. This is the fourth time in five years that we have won this event. Well done to the children for their dedication.

The Nursery children impressed us on Wednesday with their nativity show; they were so confident and sung so well. Many thanks to Miss Dennis and the Nursery team for preparing the children so well.

The end of the week has finished with our Christmas lunch! What a busy week!

Enjoy your weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 18th
DECEMBER

Tuesday 19th

Junior Carol Concert. 2pm.

Christchurch

KS1 Christmas Party. Infant children can wear their own clothes.

Thursday 21st December

Junior Christmas Party. Junior children can wear their own clothes.

Last Day of Term. 2pm Finish

JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT

The children from Y3 – Y6 will take part in the Junior Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 19th 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 slightly earlier. Any child not collected will return to school and leave at the usual time (3.15pm). Teachers have asked if parents can let them know if other arrangements are made.

Sometimes, parents have been 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.

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

ADVENT 2023

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."

INFANT NATIVITY DOWNLOAD

We have received the link for the Infant Nativity. If you would like a copy, please log into your child's Wisepay account to pay £5 and the link will be emailed to you (Infant Nativity 2023, under General Products).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday, St Mary's athletics team took part in the Greenwich Sportshall Athletics Tournament in Shooters Hill Academy. Eighteen students competed across a range of track and field events against 7 other schools over two different sessions.

It has been confirmed that St Mary's finished 1st overall and have qualified as Greenwich's representation for the regional finals to be held in Carshalton on Friday February 9th. This is the fourth time in five years that St Mary's were crowned champions of Greenwich. The children were so proud of themselves yesterday when they received the news.

Many thanks to Mr McGrath for preparing the children so well and for all his input.

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends took the Christmas gifts to the Sisters of Mercy this week so that the Sisters can distribute them to the children in the charities they support (Greenwich Night shelter and GRACE).

Many thanks to everyone for their support. The gifts that have been donated will make the children very happy indeed.



LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

Impossible Creatures Ages 9+

Christopher is stunned when he discovers a passage to the Archipelago: a cluster of magical islands where all the creatures of myth still live and breed and thrive in their thousands. There he meets Mal: a girl from the islands, who is in possession of a flying coat and a baby griffin, and who is being pursued by a killer. Together they embark on an urgent quest to discover why the creatures are suddenly perishing, voyaging across the wild splendour of the Archipelago, where sphinxes hold secrets and centaurs do murder, in a bid to save both the islands and the world beyond them from a rising evil - before it's too late.

PA NEWS

Many thanks to the PA for arranging a successful Christmas raffle! All winners will be notified. The prizes are in the main office so please collect when you can.

Members of the PA were on site today giving the children Christmas gifts from the PA. They had a special visitor with them for the children to meet!



CHRISTMAS MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

Christmas Carol Service at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

Many thanks to all the Y3/Y4 children who took part in the Diocesan Christmas Carol Concert last Wednesday in Southwark Cathedral. The feedback from parents has been very positive – saying what a beautiful service it was. Thank you to all the parents for escorting the children and for allowing the children to stay up late that evening.



PARKING

We have had a number of complaints recently regarding the parking around the school. The safety of our children is paramount so please park responsibly. Always show respect and consideration to our neighbours.

The following cars, parked illegally, were photographed recently.



STAFF VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Meals Supervisor to start as soon as possible. The successful candidate will work as part of a team, helping out during the children's lunch break.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact our business Manager, Mrs Pampling, for an application form.

ENVIRONMENT

These simple tips will help you to cut back on your waste and show our environment a little bit of love this Christmas time.

1. Use recycled paper for present wrapping.
2. Make a shopping list and only buy what you need.
3. Buy reusable items.
4. Buy items with less packaging.
5. Upcycle.
6. Turn old rubbish into beautiful decorations.
7. Recycle.