

Christmas Newsletter  
Friday 16th December 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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Merry Christmas

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

Thank you to all parents and carers for their generous messages and gifts this Christmas; they are much appreciated.

It has been an excellent term at St Mary's and on behalf of the governors, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone in our community for playing their part.

We were fortunate to have Canon Victor Darlington speak to our Junior families at the Key Stage Two Carol Concert this week; he encouraged us all to be joyful this Christmas! Well done to all the children who sung beautifully.

Mrs Thaxter would like to thank all the children who contributed poems for the Greenwich Poetry Competition. The competition was open to all schools in Greenwich Borough so the standard was very high. We are pleased to say that there are winners from St Mary's!

The winner in the KS1 section was Brendan Behan, 1C, who wrote a poem on The Environment. Valentina Robles Miranda and Fionn Doyle got special mentions for their contributions. Very well done to these children.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 2nd JANUARY

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Inset Day – Children will not attend school on this day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

Children return to school for the start of the Spring term.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Feast of the Epiphany. Whole school Mass at 10am.

### ADVENT 2022

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolises peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

#### A REFLECTION ON WINTER

*There is a winter in all of our lives,  
a chill and darkness that makes us  
yearn  
for days that have gone  
or put our hope in the days yet to  
be.*

*We need a winter in our lives,  
like nature around us,  
a time of rest, a time to stand still,  
a time to reacquaint ourselves  
with the faith in which we live.  
It is only then that we can draw  
strength from the one in whom we  
are rooted  
take time to grow and rise through  
the darkness  
into the warm glow of your  
springtime.  
Amen.*

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

## 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.

Fr John in Christchurch is available to sign forms every Friday between 3.30pm-5pm and every other Saturday between 10am-11am.  
No booking is necessary.

## UNIFORM

Please make sure that your children return to school wearing warm hats, scarves and gloves in the cold weather. These items are available to buy in the school uniform shop. **All items must be plain navy.** They look smart and complement the rest of the uniform.

If you are planning to get your child's ears pierced for Christmas, please consider this carefully. Our uniform policy clearly states that earrings should not be worn to school so, if worn to school, parents will be asked to remove them.

## MASS TIMES AT CHRISTCHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

9.00am, 5.00pm (Vigil Mass),  
8.00pm (Vigil Mass), Midnight Mass

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

9.30am Children's Mass with the Children's Choir  
11.30am Mass

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen's Day

12 Noon

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December

12 Noon

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> / Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December

9am

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

12 Noon, 6pm

### New Year's Day

9.30am Children's Mass, 11.30am, 6pm

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Erin Murphy, 1D, recently took part in her first Irish Dancing Feis and came 3rd in the under six group.

Well done Erin!



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that the all the after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Music tutors will be back on site from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Please ensure all fees have been paid to the tutors before your child resumes lessons for the next term.

Allkidscan, the wraparound care provider, will be on site from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## ENERGY CRISIS GRANT

Please read some important information about an Energy Crisis Grant that has recently been made available for certain households. Click on this link to read in detail.

[Mayor of London's energy crisis grant.](#)

If you think you qualify, please follow the instructions about the application process. If you have any question please contact:

Camilla Berens  
Chair and communications lead  
[SE London Community Energy](#)  
Tel: 07811-451417

**END OF TERM AWARDS  
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT**

<b>Class A</b>	Louie, Indie
<b>Class B</b>	Leon, Lea
<b>Class C</b>	Samuel, Raven
<b>Class D</b>	Ruben, Ella
<b>Class E</b>	Zion, Sydney
<b>Class F</b>	Elliot, Jessica
<b>Class G</b>	Jake, Isabel
<b>Class H</b>	Michael, Megan
<b>Class I</b>	Alvin, Hannah
<b>Class J</b>	Isla-Rae, Sammy
<b>Class K</b>	George, Olivia
<b>Class L</b>	Austin, Christine
<b>Class M</b>	Archie, Eleni
<b>Class N</b>	Charlie, Evie

**END OF TERM AWARDS  
CELEBRATING SCHOOL  
VALUES**

<b>Class A</b>	Elijah, Joana
<b>Class B</b>	Sasha, Elena
<b>Class C</b>	Lionel, Annie
<b>Class D</b>	Freddie, Clara
<b>Class E</b>	Max, Bella
<b>Class F</b>	Seb, Winnie
<b>Class G</b>	Arlen, Donata
<b>Class H</b>	Bobby, Rosanna
<b>Class I</b>	Daniel, Sienna
<b>Class J</b>	Maja, Alistair
<b>Class K</b>	Jan, Remi
<b>Class L</b>	Dantae, Hope
<b>Class M</b>	Jameson, Omalie
<b>Class N</b>	Alfie, Nancy

**END OF TERM AWARDS  
PSHE**

<b>Class A</b>	Jessica
<b>Class B</b>	Ava
<b>Class C</b>	Annabelle
<b>Class D</b>	Emily
<b>Class E</b>	Jacob H
<b>Class F</b>	Eliza
<b>Class G</b>	Albie
<b>Class H</b>	Jacob
<b>Class I</b>	Benas
<b>Class J</b>	Luke
<b>Class K</b>	Jenaro
<b>Class L</b>	Barney B
<b>Class M</b>	Kyle
<b>Class N</b>	Miles

**ATTENDANCE**

**FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 – FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
95%	92%	95%	95%	96%	96%	97%	95%	94%	95%	96%	97%	96%	96%

The teachers would like to bring parents attention to attendance. It is so important that children attend school every day but it is also understandable that children get sick and need to take time off to recover. Student absence has been high this half term as children and adults struggled with winter viruses but despite this, families have been sensible as the term ends with good-natured celebrations.

Well done to classes 3G and 5L for achieving the highest attendance this term. Let us hope the Christmas break will give everyone a well-deserved rest to recharge for the new term.

**STAFF VACANCIES**

We currently have vacancies for a Midday Meals Supervisor to start as soon as possible and a Teaching Assistant at school. The successful candidates will work as part of a team in their specific roles.

If you are interested in applying for any of the positions, please contact our business Manager, Mrs Pampling, for an application form.

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent, to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

Charles Dickens

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