

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 19th December 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org
office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: [@stmaryseltham](https://twitter.com/stmaryseltham)

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

We are ending this term with some wonderful news!

The St Mary's Athletic Team won the Greenwich Indoor Athletics Competition for the fifth year in a row, our children's creative work won prizes and accolades and the Acts of Kindness displayed by our children is heartwarming.

I am incredibly proud of our children. They live out our core values of faith, mercy, truth, respect, resilience and love each day, and I have seen the values shine through during this season of Advent.

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your thoughtful and generous gifts and messages this Christmas. Your gestures of gratitude remind us of the wonderful community spirit we have at St Mary's.

I would also like to thank every member of staff who helps to run our school. Every role is important and every person plays a vital part. Without all the cogs in the wheel working together, the wheel simply wouldn't turn, so thank you all.

As we enter the last couple of weeks of the festive season, I encourage everyone to take the time to rest, reflect, and cherish time with loved ones. Let the Christmas season be a time of joy, peace, and gratitude.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January, refreshed and ready for the Spring term.

God bless and kind regards

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 6th JANUARY

Monday 5th January

School reopens for the new term. 8.55am

Tuesday 6th January

Feast of the Epiphany. Mass in Christchurch at 10am

Wednesday 7th January

Y1 children visit Christchurch

Thursday 8th January

Open morning at 9.15am for prospective parents.

Y1 children visit Christchurch

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
Christmas Day Masses Thursday 24 th December	5:00 pm Vigil Mass 8:00 pm Vigil Mass Midnight Mass
Christmas Day Friday 25 th December	9:30am Children's Mass 11:30am Mass
Boxing 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 Eltham - ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK
Registered Charity Number 117305

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

ADVENT 2025

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.*

The white candle in the centre of the wreath, known as the 'Christ Candle', symbolises the arrival of Christmas. It is first lit on Christmas Eve, the beginning of Christmas, and may be lit throughout the rest of the Christmas season, as well as during Epiphany

NATIVITY SCENE IN NURSERY

The Nursery children made a very special Nativity scene this week. They loved making it and wanted to share a picture with everyone.



PRAYER AND LITURGY

Class 5K had a special visitor this week who joined in their prayer and liturgy. Sr Josephine from the Missionary Sisters visited St Mary's and was delighted to be part of the prayer and liturgy session in class 5K. Sydney and Kisabelle shared the story of John the Baptist talking about Jesus coming.



CHARITY COLLECTION

A huge thank you from the Sisters of Mercy for your generous and thoughtful donations to their charities. So many children will benefit from the gifts they receive this Christmas—gifts they may not otherwise have had. The kindness shown by all of our families will truly make a difference.



COLLECTION FOR DEMELZA



Mr Sims accompanied eight Y6 children to Demelza Hospice to deliver the donations that we were so kindly given on their behalf. The hospice staff were so happy with the lovely treats they received. In challenging circumstances, we hope that our donations will cheer up all the families who will visit the hospice over Christmas.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Well done to Josephine Vickman, 2E, for achieving her Swim England certificate for 200 metres.



ARTISTIC AWARD

Very well done to Sydney Baretic, 5K, who won the St Oscar Romero Trust Christmas Card Design Award this Christmas. There were entries from 16 schools so we are very proud of Sydney's achievement.

Out CEO, Mrs Clare Verga, presented Sydney with her prize after the Carol Concert in Christchurch.



GREENWICH POETRY COMPETITION

Many thanks to all the children who submitted poems to the Greenwich Poetry Competition. We are thrilled to inform you that **Cara Delany, 1D**, received a special mention for her poem for KS1 and **Fionn Doyle, 4I**, received a runner up award in the KS2 section.

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

We are incredibly proud to share the news that our KS2 Athletics Team have been crowned Greenwich Champions for the fifth year in a row! This outstanding achievement means the team will progress to **The London Youth Games Regional Finals**, where they will represent both St Mary's and Greenwich Borough.

This success is a true reflection of the pupils' dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship, as well as the continued support from staff, especially Mr. McGrath, and the families. We wish the team the very best of luck as they prepare for the next stage of the competition.



Please take a look at the video of Mr Sims telling the children on X!

<https://x.com/StMarysEltham>

SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Isabel Pinto, RB, received the Wraparound Sunshine of the Month for December, for coming to club every day with a great big smile and always being polite.

What a lovely award to receive at the end of the term!



ACTS OF KINDNESS

We would like to share the following *Acts of Kindness* as we come to the end of the season of Advent.

Bella Robinson, 5K, has been collecting loose change and donating it to Cancer Research UK.

Jacob Harding, 5K, took some food to the homeless people when his family were on a day trip to London.

Lydia Shallice, 4J, used her own money to buy chocolates for the staff at her grandmother's care home.

Victoria Burnett, 5K, has been helping to look after her neighbour's dog, Teddy, while they are away.

We would love to hear about the *Acts of Kindness* your children do during the Christmas holiday.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR TEAM IN THE SCHOOL KITCHEN

We have a wonderful team of people in our school kitchen. The children all gathered in the playground to wish them a "Merry Christmas"!



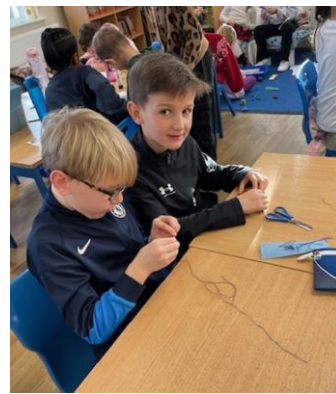
THIS WEEK.....



Christmas fun this week and a very special visitor!



Children in Year 3 were very busy and creative on the last day of term. They were perfecting their amazing sewing skills by making cross stitch books marks and making colourful Christmas cards to take home.



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

**END OF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

Class A	Joshua, Esme
Class B	Arsenio, Julia
Class C	Samuel, Honey
Class D	Jack, Thea
Class E	Samuel, Molly
Class F	Jakob, Madeleine
Class G	Vincent, Charlotte
Class H	Alex, Connie
Class I	Dexen, Fenella
Class J	Zachary, Grace
Class K	Connor G, Sydney
Class L	Matthew, Jessica
Class M	Harry, Frankie
Class N	Kaison, Lissie

**END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT**

Class A	Kyle, Sunday
Class B	Oliver, Olivia R
Class C	Roman, Emily
Class D	Bruno, Lila
Class E	Kit, Connie
Class F	Mark, Lilly
Class G	Rocco, Ava
Class H	Beau, Gloria
Class I	Brendan, Karissa
Class J	Clara, Woody
Class K	Zealand, Elisa
Class L	Oscar, Ella
Class M	Michael, Rosanna
Class N	Logan, Donata

**END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE**

Class A	Dusty
Class B	Iyla
Class C	Bethany
Class D	Bobby
Class E	Oliver
Class F	Isabella M
Class G	Shaun
Class H	Joseph
Class I	Lionel
Class J	Freddie
Class K	Adam
Class L	Winnie
Class M	Lena
Class N	Isabella

ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 - FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER 2025

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
98%	96%	98%	97%	98%	96%	97%	97%	98%	96%	97%	98%	96%	97%

Well done to classes RA, 1C, 2E, 4I and 5L for achieving 98% attendance at the end of this term! Keep up the good work.

Winter is challenging and Christmas holidays are busy so please ensure your child gets lots of rest to start the new term healthy and refreshed.

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