

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 1 December 2023**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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*Nurturing Our God-Given Talents*

### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all the children who participated in last night's Sparkle in the Park event at Avery Hill last night. Despite the freezing conditions, St Mary's were well represented with our Year Five Taru Drummers and our Chamber Choir both performing at the event.

Mrs Prescott invited in the police officer who is based at Crown Woods to speak to our Y5 and Y6 students about how to stay safe in around Eltham and also how to remain vigilant online.

Thank you to our Parents Association who have worked so hard to put on the wreath making event in the hall today. Many thanks for all your support.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Sims  
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Blessing of the Cribs KS1  
Instrumental Concert 3.30pm

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Blessing of the Cribs KS2  
Nativity Rehearsal. Whole school to watch.  
Chamber Choir singing at Irish Community Services 'Christmas Lunch Club'

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Faith Friends on Retreat at Bishop Challoner School  
Infant Nativity – 1.30pm

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

Infant Nativity – 1.30pm  
Netball Competition Y5/6

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Jumper Day  
Y6 Children singing at Alms Houses

### LITERACY



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

#### The Snowflake Ages 3-7

High, high up in the clouds a tiny snowflake is made. Perfectly small, fluffy, crystal and white, it tumbles and bounces inside the cloud. But then she begins to fall...

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

## INFANT NATIVITY

The staff and children are practicing very hard for their special performance, **Our School Nativity**. You may have heard them singing the songs!

The performances will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Please ensure you are on time; - latecomers will not be allowed in the hall, as this will disturb the young children on stage. We ask that you do not bring younger siblings so childcare should be arranged in advance.

Tickets are still available to collect from the main office. Once we know all parents have collected their tickets, we will send an email about spares. Please return any tickets you do not need so they can be distributed.

Children will return to their classes when they have finished performing. They will change back into their uniform and parents may collect them earlier than usual from side exit doors. Junior children will not be allowed to leave earlier.

The performance will be recorded so parents will be able to purchase a download. More details will follow after the recording.

The Nursery children will perform a special Christmas concert on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Parents and other family members are invited to come and see their children in the gym hall.

Nursery AM – 9.30am  
Nursery PM – 2.30pm  
Nursery All Day – Parents can come to either performance. Parents will not need tickets for this performance.

## BLESSING OF THE CRIBS

Fr John will be on site on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December to bless the cribs at school.

We would like the children to bring to school their own crib figures from home so that Fr John can bless them. He will bless crib figures from the Nursery and Infant children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Junior children on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## ADVENT 2023

*It is this abounding hope that guides our prayer during the season of Advent. We pray to prepare our hearts to be like the manger in which Christ will soon lay – open and humble. We pray for patience, healing, transformation, and peace, as our world, ravaged by war and turmoil, needs Jesus as much as ever this year.*

### Pope Francis

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. All classroom focal areas will change to purple next week to mark the beginning of this season of hope. The word Advent is a version of the Latin word meaning “coming”. We can all now look forward to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus’ birth. It is a time to reflect on our lives, a time to slow down and remember the real reason for Christmas. Maybe set aside some extra time each day for prayer. Think about others and encourage your children to reflect with you.

The first candle on the Advent wreath, which symbolises hope, will be lit at all Masses on Sunday.

## FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends taught the Infants about Advent and getting ready to welcome Jesus. Lena made an advent wreath and spoke to the children about its meaning. The Faith Friends then helped the children to write Advent promises.



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Class C held collective worship today. Joanna Grace brought in a beautiful prayer card of the Lord's Prayer that she said was her nanny's. She placed it on our altar. We then shared the story of The Lost Sheep which reminded us that when somebody gets lost, we don't leave them behind.



## MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

Please come along to Santa's Grotto on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> after 9.30am Mass. He will be based in Christchurch Hall. Tickets are £5.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

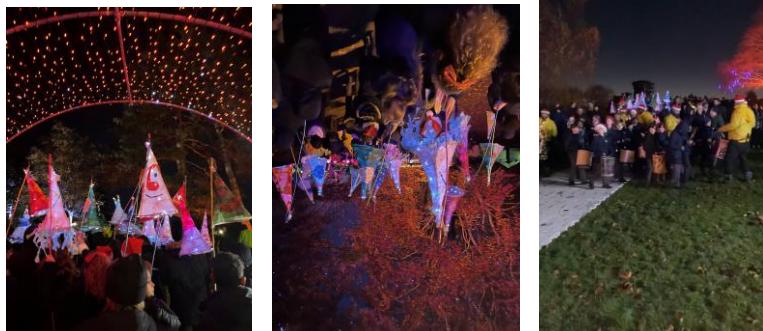
Nicholas Dunne (5K), Rio Boothe (5K) and Leo Pampling (5L), all attended a sleepover on HMS Belfast with their cub pack 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Eltham. They had a fantastic time and would highly recommend



## MUSIC NEWS

Well done to the Chamber Choir and the Y5 children who participated in Sparkle in the Park at Avery Hill yesterday evening. Although it was cold, the children really enjoyed taking part and enjoyed the event.

Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for her participation, to Taru Arts for preparing the children for the drumming/lantern parade and to all the parents for coming along to support.



## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

The season of Advent begins

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Instrumental Concert (not guitars). 3.30pm

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup>/Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

The Blessing of the Cribs. Fr John on site

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Infant Nativity 1.30pm

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumper Day  
Y6 Carol Singing at Alms Houses

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Concert for Children Learning Guitar 3.30pm. Gym Hall

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Guitar Concert 3.30pm

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Nursery Christmas Show  
Carol Service at St George's Cathedral, Southwark.  
7pm, Y3/4 Children.

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Children's Christmas Lunch

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

Junior Carol Concert. 2pm. Christchurch

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Last Day of Term. 2pm Finish

## PA NEWS

**Christmas Raffle** – The PA Christmas Raffle is now live!!! You can purchase raffle tickets using the following link:

<https://raffall.com/349239/enter-raffle-to-win-exciting-prizes-hosted-by-parents-association>

Tickets cost £1.10 each. We have over 40 exciting prizes, such as M&S voucher, a REISS tote bag, beauty/massage vouchers, Tudor Barn voucher, Chez Maitre voucher and bag and many more.

Please spread the word....the more tickets we sell, the more money we can raise to support all the children at St Mary's.

The draw will take place on 15th December 2023.

## UNIFORM

Please ensure you are up to date with our uniform policy. If you are unsure please phone the main office or look at the uniform list on our website:

[https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/UNIFORM/Uniform\\_List.pdf](https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/UNIFORM/Uniform_List.pdf)

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Please do not feel you have to purchase a new jumper; decorate an existing jumper to make it festive. We have seen many interesting creations over the years! A few baubles/tinsel make all the difference! We are encouraging every child to take part and if you wish, you can give a voluntary contribution to the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

**Normal school uniform must be worn with the Christmas jumper.**