

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

office@stmaryseltham.org

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

Instagram: @selcatacademytrust

X: @SelcatTrust

Facebook: Selcat: Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

We are ending this term with the wonderful news that the St Mary's Athletic Team won the Greenwich Indoor Athletics Competition for the fourth year in a row! Congratulations to the children, who once again performed exceptionally well and demonstrated skill and determination.

The next step for the team is the London Youth Games!

Many thanks to Mr McGrath for preparing the children and to all the parents for their help on the day.

It is with a mix of sadness and gratitude that we say goodbye to Mr McGrath after fourteen years at St Mary's as our PE coach. Mr McGrath is moving back to Ireland to take up a new job and we wish him the all the luck in the world for this new chapter in his life. The athletics victory is an incredible parting gift and fitting tribute to him, as he has dedicated so much time and effort to supporting our children in PE, introducing new sports to the children and preparing them so thoroughly for the sporting competitions they have been involved in.

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.

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 Merry 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

Mrs Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 6th JANUARY

Monday 6th January

School reopens for the new term

Feast of the Epiphany. Mass in Christchurch at 10am

Tuesday 7th January

Open morning at 9.15am for prospective parents.

ADVENT 2024

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.

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

THIS WEEK.....

The children enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Monday. There were lots of happy faces and full tummies afterwards!



The Junior Carol Concert took place on Wednesday to a packed Christchurch. It was truly beautiful.



We had a visiting pantomime company on site on Thursday. The Infant children were treated to Beauty and the Beast and the Junior children to Jack and the Beanstalk! Judging by the sounds coming from the gym hall, everyone got into the spirit of the panto!



LITERACY



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

Christmas By M.E. Miro

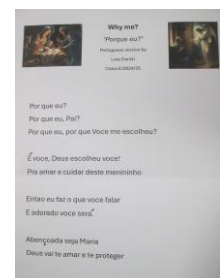
Christmas is more than a day in
December
It's all of those things that we love
to remember
Its carollers singing familiar
refrains
Bright coloured stockings and
shiny toy trains
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin
balls
Laughter that rings through the
house and its halls
Christmas is more than a day in
December
Its the magic and the love That
we'll always remember

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Charlie Worth, 2F, won "man of the match" with Glebe Lions FC as they advanced to the A League.



Lara Darski, 2E, translated her favourite Nativity song "Why Me?" into her home language of Portuguese. Lara performed the song beautifully for her class and taught some Portuguese to her friends and teachers. Thank you Lara!



NATURE DETECTIVES AT CHRISTMAS

We often decorate our homes with sprigs of mistletoe at Christmas but do you know where it grows?

Mrs Evans would like children to become Nature Detectives over the Christmas holidays!

Can you find mistletoe growing in Greenwich?

As the deciduous trees have lost their leaves, you will be able to spot mistletoe growing up in the branches. It grows in balls of paired, oval leaves with white berries.

Mistletoe can make some of its own energy through photosynthesis but it is actually a parasitic plant, meaning it takes water and nutrients from the plant it is attached to.

If you spot some mistletoe growing in a tree, perhaps you could send in a photo, but leave the plant alone as it provides an important source of food for many insects and birds throughout the winter. Good luck!

ECO EXPLORERS INITIATIVE

This term, on behalf of the Eco Explorers Club, Mrs Evans attended a School Council Meeting where it was discussed proactive ways to help improve and protect our environment.

Following on from this meeting, the first initiative of the Eco Explorers Club is to recycle Christmas plastic chocolate/sweet tubs.

Many of you may find yourselves having a few empty tubs after the festivities have finished so we would love if you could bring all the empty tubs into school between 6th and 10th January. They will be taken to be recycled and a donation will be made to Macmillan Cancer Support. So far, recycling these tubs has helped to raise over £11,000.

We are aiming to collect at least 50 tubs so help us to reach this target! Many thanks for your support.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that all after school clubs will restart in January, week beginning Monday 13th January.

Please ensure you have enrolled your child for their specific club of choice.

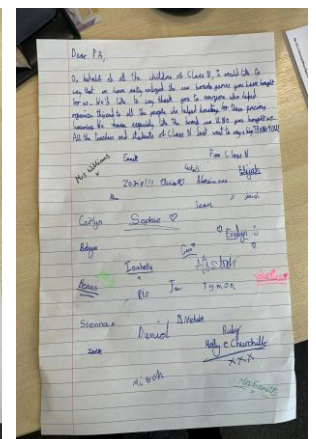
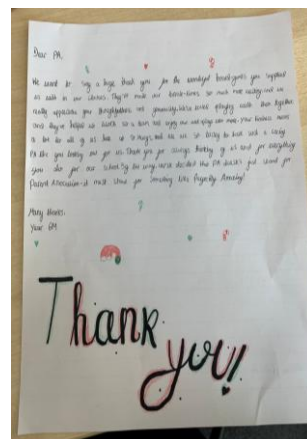
PA NEWS

PA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Winners have been notified so please collect your prize from the main office.

Many thanks to the PA for all their hard work this term. We are very lucky to have such an active and supportive PA who work tirelessly for all children within the school.

The PA organised a special visitor to visit the children this week! There were squeals of excitement coming from the classrooms as "Elf" made her way around!



END OF TERM AWARDS
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Class A	Patrick, Emilia
Class B	Leonardo, Honey
Class C	Jakob, Lilly
Class D	Kit, Otilie
Class E	Benjamin, Laura
Class F	Jendrick, Gloria
Class G	Woody, Izabella
Class H	Brendan, Anne
Class I	James, Jessica
Class J	Jacob, Aiyanna
Class K	Hugo, Emily
Class L	Kaison, Lily
Class M	Franco, Sicily
Class N	Jan, Sophie

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Class A	Samuel, Maya
Class B	Leo, Bethany
Class C	Noah, Miah
Class D	Henry, Mia
Class E	Nathan, Amelie
Class F	Sasha, Sofia
Class G	Chibunna, Freddie
Class H	Oscar, Keziah
Class I	Elliot, Esme
Class J	Stella, Zicora
Class K	Antonio, Megan
Class L	Gianluca, Isla
Class M	Sammy, Izabella
Class N	Rio, Olivia

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

Class A	Thea
Class B	Nia
Class C	Camara
Class D	Oliver
Class E	Harper
Class F	Connie
Class G	Grace
Class H	Lionel
Class I	Jacob
Class J	Aoife
Class K	Bobby
Class L	Abigail
Class M	Grace
Class N	Jan

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024 - FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER 2024

RA	RB	1C	1D	2E	2F	3G	3H	4I	4J	5K	5L	6M	6N
98%	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%	97%	96%	97%	96%	96%

Well done to classes 1D and 3G for achieving 99% attendance at the end of this term! Keep up the good work. Christmas holidays are busy but please ensure your child gets lots of rest to start the new term healthy and refreshed..

WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE
OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Okiki Ojoko, 4J, who was awarded "**sunshine of the month**" at wraparound care for December, for his positive behaviour.



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.