

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 21st November 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 24th
NOVEMBER

Thursday 27th

Y5/Y6 Football Tournament

Friday 28th

PA Event – Wreath Making in the gym hall

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

It is a special time of the year at St Mary's as we start preparing for Christmas.

The Nursery children and Infants have started preparing for their Christmas Nativities in the gym hall, while the Juniors are practicing for the Carol Concert in Christchurch. The crib will soon be up and the school decorated. It is a wonderful place to be during this special season.

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to read today's earlier message about our Christmas donation appeal for Demelza House and the Sisters of Mercy. As we begin this season of Advent, we encourage our school community to think of those who are less fortunate and may be facing difficult circumstances at this time of year.

This Advent, the children have pledged to complete 500 Acts of Kindness, looking for small and meaningful ways to show care, generosity, and compassion. Supporting our charity collection is just one of the many ways they can help make a difference.

If you are able and wish to contribute to the donation appeal, we would be truly grateful. Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen

Head of School

SCHOOL PHOTOS/CHRISTMAS CARD ORDERING

Please be reminded that if you would like to order your child's school photograph, please do so by **Wednesday 26th November**.

Orders can be placed through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk.

Photos will be delivered to school before the Christmas holiday.

If you have not yet ordered your Christmas cards, please note that there is a second school shop opening between 21st November – 1st December. Your items will be sent to the school before 14th December.

Details for ordering are on the template that has been sent home with the children.

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

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS



Sunday 23rd November
Christchurch Christmas Fayre.

Friday 28th December
PA Event – Wreath Making

Sunday 30th November
The season of Advent begins

Monday 1st December
Instrument Concert. 3.30pm. Gym Hall
This concert does not include the children learning guitar as they will have a separate concert on Tuesday 16th December.

Tuesday 2nd December
The Blessing of the Cribs (EYFS/KS1). Fr John on site

Wednesday 3rd December
The Blessing of the Cribs (KS2). Fr John on Site

Thursday 4th December
Nursery Nativity 2.30pm

Tuesday 9th December
End of term gymnastics show 4pm

Wednesday 10th / 11th December
Infant Nativity 1.30pm

Friday 12th December
Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice
Y6 visit the Almshouses
Y5 Bexley Grammar Pantomime
Last Day for Christmas Charitable Donations

Monday 15th December
Children's Christmas lunch

Tuesday 16th December
Instrument Concert for guitar pupils 3.30pm

Wednesday 17th December
Junior Carol Concert. Christchurch. 2pm

Friday 20th December
Last day of this term. 2pm finish

FAITH FRIENDS

This morning, the Y4/Y5 Faith Friends led assemblies for the Infant and Junior children to launch our *School Pledge of 500 Acts of Kindness*. The Faith Friends asked the children to complete acts of kindness with their families at home and send in photos of any kind things they do in the community with their families or at home.

This could be activities such as litter picking, raising money for charity, donating toys or food to the food bank, feeding the birds, helping with the washing up.

Let us remember the words of Jesus *"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me"* Matthew 25:40

When we show kindness to others, we are really showing love to Jesus himself.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Margot O' Connor, 6M, completed and passed a Water Smart Programme Award with Kent police and the Royal Life Saving Society UK. This is a very worthwhile and brilliant award to have gained.



Ottlie Hirsch, 2E, recently passed her stage 3 swimming. Well done Ottlie for working so hard for this achievement.



Cormac Doyle, 1C, passed his stage 3 swimming this week. He was very proud to receive his certificate.



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.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admission-s-04122019150956/>

<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. Please inform anyone you know with Reception/Nursery age children who would like to see the school with a view to applying.

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

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

Date for your diary:

**Sunday 23rd November –
Christchurch Christmas Fayre**
10am – 1pm.

If you have unwanted or unused toys, gifts or bottles, please consider donating them to Christchurch. There are black bins at the end of the church to take donations.

SPORTS NEWS

Our Y3/Y4 football team were incredible yesterday! They played in a tournament at the Charlton football grounds on Footscray Road, winning the whole competition. They played against other primary schools. Many thanks to Charlton Athletic Trust for hosting the event and for the parental support and help that we had on the day.



INFANT NATIVITY

The staff and children have begun to practice for their special Christmas performance, *A Child is Born*.

The performances will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December in the gym hall.

Tickets will be issued to families next week. Please email the main office to specify the days you want to attend. Two tickets are allowed per family. There is no cost for the tickets but we will be having a charity collection on both days.

Babies and younger children will **not** be allowed to attend the performances as it can be overwhelming for the children on stage. Younger children can sometimes shout out and distract. Please ensure alternative childcare.

Tickets that are not required can be returned to the main office so that the office staff can offer them out as extras. If this is the case, these tickets will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

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 their special Christmas Nativity on Thursday 4th December at 2.30pm. Parents and other family members are invited to come and see their children perform in the gym hall.

Parents will not need tickets for this performance.

RECEPTION NEWS

Today, the children in Reception invited Mrs Woodhouse, our Science co-ordinator, to their space party. Mrs Woodhouse loved hearing all about the space learning the children have been doing in school.

