

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 23rd January 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

When I heard that the Faith Friends were focusing on the theme of light this week, I thought about what that light means. Jesus is the light of life, and through him we are called to bring light to others through kindness and compassion.

This feels especially timely as London is currently illuminated by a number of light events, reminding us that light can bring people together, lift spirits, and brighten even the darkest days. Just as these lights transform familiar spaces across the city, each of us carries a light, and when we choose to share it, our community shines brighter.

Our Debate Team were shining this week! They did remarkably well to win the first heat of the Cicero Cup debate competition. Their hard work and teamwork truly shone through and it is rewarding to see their confidence grow.

Enjoy your weekend and make use of the longer lighter days that we are now experiencing.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 26th JANUARY

Sunday 25th January
Burn's Night

Tuesday 27th January
School Council Meeting at St Thomas More Comprehensive. 8am

Wednesday 28th January
Y2 visit Christchurch

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Coco Meyer, 1D, completed stage 3 in swimming and is now looking forward to the challenge of stage 4!

Coco was very pleased with her achievements.



BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The Big Garden Birdwatch is an annual event run by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) where people of all ages are encouraged to spend one hour counting the birds in their garden or local green space. For more information on how to become part of this, please look on the RSPB website.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

The Reception children held a beautiful Prayer and Liturgy session today. Frankie Bayram and Aamira Ayoola from class B and Rose Robinson and Joshua Hooghoudt from class A led the sessions.

Inspired by the Bible story of Jesus and the children, they created pictures and prayers at home with their families.

Frankie asked to bless his classmates like Jesus – a truly special moment. The children shared their own prayers and closed with the hymn, Ave Maria.



Prayer and Liturgy in class C was led by Rory Archer and Leonardo Baldassarri Hoger Von Hogerthal. The children told the story of The Ten Silver Coins. A woman had ten coins, but she lost one. She looked carefully, cleaned her house, and finally found it! She was so happy that she celebrated with her friends.

In class, the children acted out the story, looking for a lost coin and finding it. They all celebrated.

Jesus told this story to show that God loves each of us, and He is happy whenever someone who was lost is found.

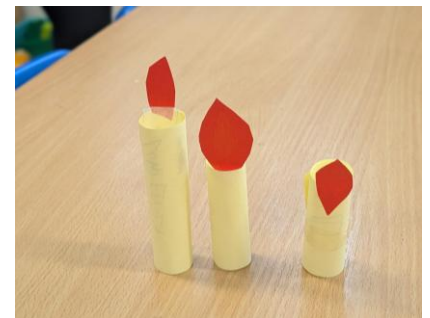


FAITH FRIENDS

Today the Y5 Faith Friends gathered the younger children to talk about *light*. They talked about how Jesus is the light of the world and how we can share the light with others by being kind and friendly to all.

The children drew pictures showing how they would share their light, and the Faith Friends helped turn those drawings into candles.

*God of light, Shine in our hearts
so that we can share joy and
hope with other people, especially
those who are frightened, lonely
or hungry
Amen.*



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Members of our School Council have been given the opportunity to join a School Council meeting at St Thomas More Comprehensive Secondary School. Our headboy/girl and deputy headboy/girl will attend.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th January at 8.15am. Children are asked to meet Mrs White outside St Thomas More at 8am. They will make their way to the meeting room to join the members of the St Thomas More School Council.

The meeting will finish before the start of the school day, and they will walk back to St Mary's once it concludes.

Many thanks to Mrs White for organising this and to the relevant staff at St Thomas More for accommodating.

INFANT NATIVITY

The links to download the Infant Nativity are available until 31st January, so one more week to purchase.

If you would like a copy, please make a £5 payment on Wisepay and we will send the links to you.

The year groups that were involved in the Nativity were Reception, Y1 and Y2.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE

Sunday 25th January is Burns Night.

Burns Night is a Scottish cultural celebration that pays tribute to Robert Burns, one of the most celebrated poets in Scotland's history.

The event typically includes the recitation of Burns' poems, singing Scottish songs, enjoying Scottish food with a glass of whiskey!

Please let us know if you celebrate this special occasion and send some pictures/information about your celebrations.

ART WORKSHOPS IN Y1

Y1 took part in a Magic Lantern workshop as part of our Winter topic. They explored winter themed art works with Helen, an art historian, who helped the children look closely at art and talk about what they could see.

Through drama, movement and pretending to use paintbrushes, the children acted as artists creating the artwork. Inspired by winter art pieces they studied, the children created their own winter scenes using white paint and oil pastels.



DEBATE COMPETITION

On Tuesday, members of St Mary's Debating Club competed in the first heat of the Cicero Cup, a national debating competition for primary schools. Although we were up against stiff competition, our children performed marvellously and were successful in winning the heat, progressing to the national semi-finals!

Many congratulations to Connie, Kevin, Hugo, Henry, Connor and Isabella, for winning both the heat and for representing St Mary's so wonderfully with their respectful behaviour.

Many thanks to Miss Brophy for preparing the children so well and to Mrs Chart for accompanying the children on the day.

