

# Weekly Newsletter

## Friday 26th November 2021

### St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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#### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is a special time of the year as we start preparing for Christmas. The Infants are busily preparing for the Christmas Nativity in the hall, while the Juniors are practising for the Carol Concert in Christchurch. When the children return to school on Monday they will notice that the crib and Advent wreath have been put up in school.

Father John will be coming into school on Thursday and Friday and his message will be simple for the children – Tell the story of Christmas.

This week I have been talking to children with governors who have been asking them questions about their experience at St Mary's. It is so lovely to hear all of the children's responses who talk passionately about how much they love their school – we are lucky to have them!

Next week, St Marys will be welcoming a teacher from Coram Life Education to lead sessions as part of the children's PSHE learning. Coram Life Education is the leading provider of relationships, health, wellbeing, and drugs education to almost half a million children across the UK, delivered under the strapline 'Helping Children Make Healthy Choices'.

The children always enjoy these engaging sessions, reuniting with Harold the Giraffe, the program's mascot. We are all looking forward to seeing them again after missing out during lockdown.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

#### WEEK BEGINNING 28/11/2021

##### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November

The season of Advent begins.

##### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Life Tent on site for PHSE

St Andrew's Day. Wishing all of our Scottish families best wishes on their special day.

##### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

Y6 Samba concert

##### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>/Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Fr John on site for the Blessing of the Cribs.

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

Football tournament in Sparrows Lane

PA Event – Wreath Making

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

PA Event – Christmas Fair

#### FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

##### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> /Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Infant Nativity

##### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Children's Christmas Lunch

##### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas jumper day  
PA Event – Children's Disco

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

Instrumental Concert

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

Junior Carol Concert at Christchurch

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

School closes at 2pm for the Christmas holiday

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

## ADVENT 2021

*Light of Christmas shines all the brighter amid darkness of pandemic'*  
*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.

This year, the lights of Christmas seem dimmed by the pandemic, which still weighs heavily, but we must not lose hope, we must have courage and faith.

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

## FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Max Acecki, 4I, came up with the idea of raising some money towards the 3G Sports Pitch. His aim was to climb ten mountains in three months but he managed to do this in two months!

He has already raised £750!

What a truly amazing achievement. We would like to thank Max very much for this tremendous effort and what a role model he is to the children at St Mary's.

The mountains he climbed are as follows:

*High Willhays and Yes Tor in Dartmoor, Devon,  
Corn Du and Pen y Fan in South Wales  
Cader Idris and Craig Lwyd in Wales  
Ingleborough and Simon Fell in Yorkshire Dales  
The Old Man Coniston, Wetherlam and Black Sails in Lake District*

<https://gofund.me/24431258>



## INFANT NATIVITY

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
December – 1.30pm**

The Infant children are practicing very hard for their forthcoming performance of the Nativity.

Tickets for the performance will be available to collect from the main office from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Each family can have two tickets and when you come to collect please specify which day you would like. There is no cost for these tickets.

The Nursery children will perform a special Christmas concert on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are invited to come and see their children in the gym hall.

Nursery AM – 9am  
Nursery PM – 2.45pm  
Nursery All Day – Parents can come to either performance.

A DVD of the production will be available for parents to purchase before the Christmas holiday.

## BLESSING OF THE CRIBS

Fr John will be on site on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<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. Nursery and Infant children are invited on Thursday and Junior children on Friday.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPIES

We are delighted to say that £600.29 was raised for The Poppy Appeal.

Thank you all very much for your support.

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

### Y6 SAMBA CONCERT

The Y6 children will take part in a samba concert on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 3.30pm in the gym hall. They have been practicing very hard and are looking forward to perform in front of their families.

Parents and family members are invited to come along to see the children.

The concert will last 30 – 40 minutes

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please note that the after school clubs will finish for this term the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please look out for information about rebooking clubs for the new term in January.

Emails will come from Mrs Jeffrey in the main office.

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos can be ordered online. Orders placed by Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November will be delivered to St Mary's. There will be no delivery charge for these photos. Photos ordered after this date will incur a postage fee.

We will distribute the photos as soon as they arrive at St Mary's.

Photos make a cherished Christmas gift so ensure you order promptly.

### BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Please keep the birthday books coming into school! When your child celebrates their birthday, please encourage them to bring a book to school to share with their class and it can then stay in the book corner for all the children to read.

Many thanks for your support.

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Peter Griffin, 3G, was awarded the **sportsman trophy** at Blackheath Rugby Club for scoring a hat trick in his rugby match. Excellent performance!



Jack Saunders, RA, has progressed from the red to amber level in his swimming lessons. A wonderful achievement!



### A SPECIAL MENTION....

We are so proud of Gabriela in Y6 who this week made a special book at home for her reading buddy, Yamen, in Reception.

The Three Little Pigs was created with buttons, sticks and other 3D items, which help bring a story to life for someone with visual impairment

Well done Gabriela!



## PA EVENTS

### Wreath Making

03/12/21

This is always a very popular event. The gym hall will turn into a haven of creativity while adults come and create a beautiful wreath for their front door. There is a real feeling of achievement when you see the finished wreath! Spaces are limited so booking is essential. Please click on the link below to book your slot as we still have spaces available:

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryswreathmaking/608798>

There are two timeslots to book – 1.30pm and 6pm. Tickets cost £25, which will include all the materials to make a wreath, a glass of mulled wine and wonderful company!

### Christmas Fair

04/12/21

Santa's Grotto will be open at the Christmas Fair from 12noon - 4pm. Tickets are now available to purchase. Spaces are limited so we are asking for this to remain for the children of St Mary's. Please ensure that families only have one timeslot as a family and the additional child tickets for siblings. If you have more than one timeslot please contact the PA [stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com)

Please click on this link to purchase tickets:

<https://fixr.co/event/308802426>

Mrs McGarry will also be singing with her adult choir at 1pm so please come along to listen to some beautiful singing. Mrs McGarry will also be leading the Chamber Choir singing Christmas melodies at 2pm. The singing is already sounding magnificent so please come along on the day to enjoy!

There will be a variety of stalls selling Christmas goods so please come and have a browse! You can enjoy hot food from the bbq, mulled wine, tea and coffee and see real live reindeer.

The PA are collecting bottles for the tombola. If you can donate a bottle of any kind, please bring it to the main office. It can be something as simple as a bottle of washing up liquid or as fancy as a bottle of liquor!

If you have any unused gifts laying around at home, please donate them as they can be used as raffle prizes.

### Children's Disco

10/12/21

Tickets will go on sale from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Parents will be able to purchase them through Wisepay. Please look out for the volunteer rotas, which the class Reps will be circulating.

3.15pm – 4.15pm	Reception, Y1 and Y2
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Y3 and Y4
5.45pm – 6.45pm	Y5 and Y6