

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 28th November 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 1st DECEMBER

Monday 1st

Instrumental Concert. 3.30pm in the gym hall

Tuesday 3rd

Fr John on site blessing crib figures for children in EYFS and KS1.

Wednesday 4th

Fr John on site blessing crib figures for KS2 children.

Thursday 4th

Nursery children perform their Christmas Show at 2.30pm.

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. This is a very special time, where we prepare for the coming of Jesus. This week's Gospel reminds us that Jesus will return one day. We cannot be exactly sure when this time will be, so we must try to be ready all the time; let us be filled with this hope.

The children in school have been busy preparing for Advent. They have been thinking very hard and have made their own special Advent promises, reflecting on the ways in which they can help others and show love during this time. We remember our other school values too and continue to look for ways in which we can embed them in to our daily lives.

The first purple candle of Advent will be lit at mass this week, representing hope. When we look around, we sometimes see people that might be in need of our help. Let us remember others and look for ways that we can bring them hope during this time special time.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

ADVENT 2025

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.

You may find time to set aside some extra time each day for prayer, to 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.

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

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS



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

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 click on the link below to request tickets. We ask that requests are made by **Wednesday 3rd December** to allow time for the tickets to be distributed and spares to be allocated.

<https://forms.office.com/e/bDDGwbHhq1>

Two tickets are allowed per family. There is no cost for the tickets but we will be having a charity collection on both days.

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.

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.

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 Show 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.

BLESSING OF THE CRIBS

Fr John will be on site on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd 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 of the Nursery and Infant children on Tuesday 2nd and Junior children on Wednesday 3rd December.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

In Class C today, Sebi and Roman led our Prayer and Liturgy which focused on the story of The Lost Sheep.

Sebi prepared a thoughtful poem and Roman helped to tell the story. Lots of children shared their ideas about God's love for us all.



WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

This month the award goes to Roman Russell from 1C. Roman is very polite, helpful and kind and he loves to participate in the different activities that are taking place.



FAITH FRIENDS

Today, the Faith Friends in 4I gathered the Infant children to talk about the importance of kindness. Together, they discussed simple ways we can show care for others as we work towards completing *500 Acts of Kindness* before the end of the Year of Hope. The Faith Friends shared some of the thoughtful acts they have already carried out and they encouraged the Infant children to think about the kind things they could do too.

They then prayed together to give us the courage to spread kindness to all those we meet.

The children drew pictures of kind acts that they had done or could do at home or school.

If any child completes an act of kindness at home or in the community, please email the office with a photo or drawing as Mrs Shallice would love to see them.

Here is an example of a lovely act of kindness:

Isaac Shallice, 1C, decided he wanted to buy a toy in Morrisons for the Christmas Toy Donation Trolley. He did chores at home to earn some money then went back to the shop to make his toy purchase and donate it.

This was a very thoughtful kind deed...well done to Isaac.



DEBATE COMPETITION

This week, our pupils represented St Mary's at a debating competition with over 20 schools taking part. Two teams—the Greater Debaters and the Argument Avengers—won two of their three rounds with impressive skill and teamwork. Our newer teams, the Logic Lions and Word Warriors, also secured wins and showed fantastic progress. All four teams displayed excellent sportsmanship and made us extremely proud.



INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

Children in Y4, Y5 and Y6 who are receiving instrumental lessons and/or are in the orchestra are invited to take part in the concert on Monday 1st December. The children will remain at school after 3.15pm and go straight to the gym hall, where they will perform.

Parents and family members are invited to come and watch. Babies and toddlers can come too.

This is a chance for the children to showcase their learning this term

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.

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

PA EVENT

The PA wreath making event took place today and what a marvellous atmosphere there was in the gym hall. The creativity was flowing!

Many thanks to the PA for organising the event and giving people the opportunity to create something beautiful and to the Chamber Choir for providing some Christmas melodies.

Listen to the video which has been uploaded to X. <https://x.com/StMarysEltham>



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