

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 2nd December 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

Parents will be eager to know of the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection this week. The lead inspector emphasised more than once in his feedback to governors last night that the provisional outcomes he presented were confidential and subject to the quality assurance process at Ofsted and may be changed at any time until the report is published. The whole process will take 3-4 weeks and we are simply not permitted to inform you or staff the provisional judgements before then.

We can report that feedback was very positive and the ethos of our community was a major driver in the inspectors findings. We are very pleased with the result. Thank you to all the parents who completed the surveys and said such wonderful things about our school. Please join us in thanking the whole staff who performed so well in a challenging process. The support that we have felt from the whole school community has been very touching. The students spoke with such confidence and pride about attending St Mary's; we are very fortunate to have such wonderful children here.

In other news, we were delighted yesterday afternoon when the school received a phone call unexpectedly from a lady who was on the bus at the same time as St Mary's football team. Mrs Jefferys took the call and the woman said that she was "choked up" by the amazing behaviour of the team. She said that she does not normally like to get the bus and was so delighted to see young students behaving so well. Thank you to these students for making us so proud.

Mr J Sims and Miss C Phipps
Headteachers



WEEK BEGINNING 5th DECEMBER

Monday 5th

Y6 Educational Trip to the Imperial War Museum

PA Event – Preloved Christmas Jumper Sale-

Tuesday 6th

Nursery Christmas Performance – 11am & 2.45pm

Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th

Infant Nativity – 2pm

Thursday 8th

Y6 Children Visit The Almshouses

Friday 9th

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich & Bexley Hospice

Y5/Y6 Girls Netball Tournament
Children's Pantomime

Sunday 11th

PA Event at Eltham Town FC – St Mary's Christmas Fair

ADVENT 2022

The second candle on the Advent wreath will be lit at Masses on Sunday. This is a purple candle symbolising *faith and the journey Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem.*

There is an Advent calendar uploaded to the website. Please have a look with your child and try to do the activities suggested each day.

https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/docs/Advent_Calendar.pdf

The St Mary's crib has been set up in the main entrance. The children love stopping to take a look as they go by. The three wise kings are making their journey through the school to reach the crib on the feast of the Epiphany.

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

INFANT NATIVITY

The staff and children are practicing very hard for their special performance, **Our School Nativity**. Please encourage your children to practice the words, actions and songs that they are currently learning at school.

The performances will take place at 2pm on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th at 2pm in the gym hall.

Please ensure you are in your seats by 1.55pm. Latecomers will not be allowed in the hall, as this will disturb the young children on stage. We ask that you do not bring younger siblings so childcare should be arranged in advance.

Tickets are still available to collect from the main office. Once we know all parents have collected their tickets, we will send an email about spares so contact the main office if you would like another ticket. Return any tickets you do not need so they can be distributed.

Children will return to their classes when they have finished performing. They will change back into their uniform and parents may collect them earlier from the usual side exit doors. Junior children will not be allowed to leave earlier.

The performance will be recorded so parents will be able to purchase a DVD or download. We will send details to parents about the cost when it has been confirmed.

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

Nursery AM – 11am

Nursery PM – 2.45pm

Nursery All Day – Parents can come to either performance.

MUSIC NEWS

The Chamber Choir were amazing at Sparkle in the Park (Well Hall Pleasance) yesterday evening and again this morning singing Christmas carols at Eltham Passey Place. They sang and behaved beautifully. Many thanks to Mrs McGarry for organising the events and to all the families for coming along to help and support.

The children who have instrument lessons at school will be taking part in an end of term concert on Monday 12th December at 3.30pm. Please come along to hear how well your child has progressed this term. All family members are welcome to attend.



UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/END OF TERM EVENTS

Monday 5th December

PA selling preloved Christmas Jumpers – 2.30pm

Tuesday 6th December

Nursery Christmas Performance – 11am & 2.45pm

Wednesday 7th/Thursday 8th December

Infant Nativity 2pm

Thursday 8th December

Y6 visit Almshouses for Christmas

Friday 9th December

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich & Bexley Hospice

Children's Christmas Panto

Creative Stars End of Term Performance – 4pm

Monday 12th December

Musical Instrumental Concert – 3.30pm

Tuesday 13th December

Gymnastics End of Term Show – 4pm

Wednesday 14th December

Junior Carol Concert at Christchurch – 2pm
Nursery and Infant Christmas Parties

Thursday 15th December

Gymnastics End of Term Show – 8.30am
Y3/Y4 Children at St George's Cathedral singing Christmas Carols - PM

Friday 16th December

Junior Christmas Parties
Last Day of Term – 2pm

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next Friday, 9th December, is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Many of you may want to have a look at the preloved Christmas jumper sale that the parents association are having on Monday 5th December at St Mary's. Please do not feel you have to purchase a new jumper; decorate an existing jumper to make it festive. We have seen many interesting creations over the years! A few baubles/tinsel make all the difference! We are encouraging every child to take part and if you wish, you can give a voluntary contribution to the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

Normal school uniform must be worn with the Christmas jumper.

SPORTS NEWS

Some of our Y6 children represented St Mary's in the EFL Charlton League Football Tournament yesterday, in Footscray Rugby Club.

The children, played with resilience and determination during each match. The highlight of the tournament was meeting players from the Charlton Athletic Men's First team – the players even signed some of our children's football boots!

Many thanks to Mrs.Harkin and Miss.Khol for accompanying the children.



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 2023. The deadline to submit your application is Sunday 15th January.

Parents/carers will need to complete a St Mary's supplementary form; filled in and signed by your priest, and returned to the main office. They also need to apply to their local authority; details of this application form can be located online.

Fr John in Christchurch is available to sign forms every Friday between 3.30pm-5pm and every other Saturday between 10am-11am. No booking is necessary.

PA NEWS

Monday 5th December – Preloved Christmas Jumper Day – 3.15pm. If you, or if you know anyone who has Christmas jumpers they no longer require, please bring them to the main office. Christmas jumper day will take place in school on Friday 9th December in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

Sunday 11th December – Christmas Event at Eltham Football Club – 2pm-6pm. The PA are collaborating with Eltham Town FC to run a Christmas event for the families at St Mary's. There is a £1 entry fee per person, payable at the gate. There will be food and drink stalls, craft, toy, sweet stalls, various market stalls, a children's entertainer and lots more!

Father Christmas will take up residence in his grotto! If you would like to visit him with your children, please book through the following link:

<https://fixr.co/event/santas-grotto-at-the-oaks-tickets-293097902>

If you spare a little time to volunteer, please sign up [here](#).

Christmas Raffle – Tickets for the raffle can now be purchased by following the link below (£1 each). There are great prizes to be won so try your luck!

<https://raffall.com/323834/enter-raffle-to-win-christmas-raffle-2022-hosted-by-parents-association>

STAFF VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a Middy Meals Supervisor to start as soon as possible. The successful candidate will work as part of a team providing practical support during the lunchtime period.

The post will be from 11.50am-1.15pm, Monday to Friday, term time only.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Mrs Pampling for an application form.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Gymnastics and sewing clubs will be the only clubs taking place in the final week of term. All other clubs will finish next week. Mrs Jeffrey will email letters with details of the clubs for next so ensure you book your child's place on time.

Children who take part in gymnastics and creative dance will be showing their parents what they have learned this term in a show at the end of their lesson on Friday 9th December (creative stars 4pm), Tuesday 13th (gymnastics 4pm) and Thursday 15th December (gymnastics 8.30am).

A MINDFUL MOMENT

Meditation practice is not about trying to throw ourselves away or become something better. It is about befriending who we are already