

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 5th December 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF
020 8850 7835

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org
office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: [@stmaryseltham](https://twitter.com/stmaryseltham)

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



WEEK BEGINNING 8th DECEMBER

Tuesday 9th

End of Term gymnastics show. Gym hall. 4pm

Wednesday 10th

Y4 Roman Day
Infant Nativity 1.30pm

Thursday 11th

Infant Nativity 1.30pm

Friday 12th

Christmas Jumper Day
Last Day for Charitable Donations to Demelza and Sisters of Mercy Y5 at Bexley Grammar to see Christmas Pantomime
Y6 Visit Almshouses
Y5/Y6 Indoor Athletic Competition

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

As part of our Advent preparations, we have been taking moments to pause, breathe, and reflect on the things we are grateful for. This time of waiting helps us to slow down and appreciate the blessings in our lives.

We look forward to the Infant Nativity next week. The children have been very focused and are excited to perform for their families.

Christmas is not only about gifts and glitter but also about kindness, giving, and coming together as a community. It's heartwarming to see our pupils embracing these values, from their participation in charity drives to the beautiful artwork and performances brightening our halls.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs J Hansen
Head of School

ADVENT 2025

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

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.

*Loving God,
As we light the second candle of Advent,
we remember Your gift of peace.
Help us to bring calm where there is worry,
kindness where there is hurt,
and gentleness to everyone we meet.
Prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus,
and guide us to walk in His light each day.
Amen.*

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

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS



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

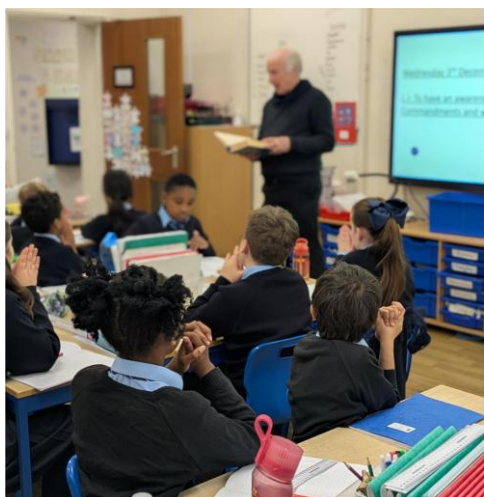
Tuesday 16th December
Instrument Concert for guitar pupils
3.30pm

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

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

BLESSING OF THE CRIBS

Fr John came on site this week to bless the children's crib figures. Many thanks to all the children who brought their figures to school for the special blessing. Children from Class K joined Fr John in prayer.



INFANT NATIVITY

The staff and children are busy practising 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.

Please check your child's bookbag for the tickets as they have been issued today. You have to show your ticket before seeing the performance so please keep them in a safe place.

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.

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Today, Sophie Saunders, 1C, shared the story of The Lost Son. Sophie worked hard to read and learn the story so she could explain it to her friends in class. They talked about how important it is to include everybody in their games and conversations.



CHARITY DONATIONS

As part of our Advent focus on kindness and generosity, we encourage the children to think not only about receiving gifts, but also about the joy of giving to others—especially those who may find this time of year difficult.

This Christmas, St Mary's are very proud to support two charities through special gift collections.

The Sisters of Mercy work closely with homeless charities and community groups, while Demelza House is a children's hospice based in Eltham, caring for children with terminal illnesses.

The Sisters of Mercy have asked for small, gender-neutral gifts to support the homeless charities they work with. If possible, please wrap these gifts and clearly label them with the appropriate age range.

Demelza House has kindly asked for small gifts for families staying at the hospice over Christmas. Suggested items include new arts and crafts sets, Lego, jigsaws, and/or small treats such as chocolates and biscuits. These gifts do not need to be wrapped. Christmas can be an especially difficult time for these families, and these donations help to make the hospice feel more welcoming for families spending precious time with their loved ones. The hospice remains open throughout the Christmas period, 24 hours a day, so that families can come and go as they wish.

We kindly ask to send any gifts into school by Friday 12th December, so we have enough time to organise and distribute them.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Cece Otley, 2E, performed in the choir at Westminster Central Hall last weekend, supporting former X factor finalists, G4. She was proud to be part of their Christmas concert with her drama school, PQA Greenwich.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next Friday, 12th December, is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

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! We are encouraging every child to take part and if you wish, you can give a voluntary contribution to the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

We may have some spare jumpers here at school so enquire at the main office if you need one.

Normal school uniform must be worn with the Christmas jumper.

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.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place/apply-primary-school-place/complete-primary-school>

FAITH FRIENDS

This week, the Y6 Faith Friends checked all the class focal areas around the school. The cloths are now purple, reflecting this time of preparation for Advent.

The children also spoke to Y1 children about Advent and helped them to write their own advent promises. They showed them the Advent wreath in the main entrance and explained what each candle represents.



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

KEEPING HEALTHY

At this time of year, it is important to make sure we are getting plenty of rest in the midst of the seasonal busyness. We have a few exciting weeks ahead in school, with many special activities planned, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy them. Please remember to look after your bodies as well as your minds.

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