

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 6th January 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF

020 8850 7835

headteachers@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org

office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year. I hope you enjoyed a restful Christmas break and managed to celebrate with families and friends, despite the challenges of the current Winter viruses.

Fr John came on site today to celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night, which marks the end of the Christmas season.

This feast day celebrates the visit of the wise men bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The wise men were led to Bethlehem by a bright star (Star of Bethlehem) to see the newborn baby. These gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth; gold representing his royal standing, frankincense his divine birth and myrrh his mortality.

A Polish Catholic Tradition-Trzech Kroli

It is always lovely to hear of the different celebrations and traditions that take place during the Christmas season so I asked Mrs Piechota, our year 1 teacher, to pass on a Polish tradition linked to the Epiphany. She informed us that a Polish Catholic tradition is to use blessed chalk to write the initials of the three wise men (Kaspar, Melchior, Balthasar) on the door of the family home on the Epiphany. This is to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. Parish Priests visit and bless homes of Catholic families, and have the opportunity to meet members of their Parish to celebrate the coming of Jesus and the New Year together.

Have a restful weekend.

Mr J Sims
Headteacher



WEEK BEGINNING 9th JANUARY

Monday 9th

Class D Children visit Christchurch

Tuesday 10th

Class C Children visit Christchurch
Open Day for Prospective Parents –
9.15am

Thursday 12th

Blackheath Rugby Tournament for Y3
and Y4

Friday 13th

Class D Children visit Eltham Library

Sunday 15th

Closing date for applying for a place in
Reception to start in September 2023.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Betty Quinn, 5L, received her
Grade 1 piano certificate.

Well done to Betty!



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

APPLYING TO ST MARY'S

If you are applying for your child to start Reception in September 2023, please be aware that the closing date for applications is Sunday 15th January. Everybody must apply online to Greenwich Council or your local authority if you do not live in Greenwich Borough, as **well as** providing a completed supplementary form to St Mary's. Please ensure all the supporting documents are provided with the form. There is an open morning on Tuesday 10th January at 9.15am if you wish to view the school before submitting your application.

We cannot stress enough the importance of submitting the correct forms. Failure to do so could prevent your child from joining St Mary's in September.

MUSIC NEWS

Y6 Samba Concert – Wednesday 11th January

The Y6 children are taking part in a Samba music concert on Wednesday 11th January at 3pm, in the gym hall. The concert will last approx. 20 minutes. All parents and family members are welcome to attend.

Any child taking part in the concert that attends an after school club can go straight to their club when the concert has finished.

Any younger siblings that have not been collected at 3.15pm will be taken to the gym hall by their teachers to meet their parents or carers.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will be up and running from Monday 9th January, apart from Y6 football which normally takes place in Eltham Park South. Please refer to the timetable attached to see the times and days.

We ask that all parents collect their children promptly when the session has finished. It has already been a long day for the children so parents should be on time to collect. Many thanks for your support.

PA NEWS

We would like to say thank you to Rachel Gosbee (chairperson), Sarah Rawlins (treasurer) and Kate Duffy (secretary) for their hard work as committee members of the PA for the past four years. They have been spent many hours organising events to ensure that all the children in St Mary's benefit. We welcome the new committee members – Shelly Ross-Harding/Helen Marchant (co-chairpersons), Marta Inkin (secretary) and Iryna Shkilna (treasurer) and look forward to working with them.

The Nativity download is now available for parents to purchase (£8)
<https://stmaryspa.com>

There are also some DVDs available to purchase in the main office (£1).

STAFF VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Meals Supervisor. The position is for five days per week and we will consider someone who wants to work part time or two people who may be interested in job sharing. Do not be afraid to ask any questions you may have.

Please contact our Business Manager, Rose Pampling, for more details about the role.

SPORTS NEWS

Blackheath Rugby Club are holding the rescheduled rugby tournament on Thursday 12th January for Y3/Y4 children at Hervey Road Sports Field. The children taking part have been informed.

The children will travel by bus to the festival, accompanied by Mr Sims and adult helpers. They will need to bring a packed lunch, water bottles along with some healthy snacks.

The weather is currently changeable so please ensure your child wears warm layers under their St Mary's PE kit and appropriate coats.

Parents will be informed of any changes to the schedule

CRICKET LESSONS

The Y4 children will be participating in cricket lessons as part of their PE lessons. Platform Cricket will come on site each Friday to teach the children. These lessons will take place during the school day.