

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 8th December 2023

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

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The Christmas season is well and truly upon us and school is very busy.

Faith Friends Retreat:

This week I accompanied the Faith Friends at Bishop Challoner School in Bromley to the first SELCAT chaplaincy retreat. This was an important day where the children got to talk about their Faith with children from two other schools.

Nativity:

The children in KS1 and Reception made all their parents and teachers very proud with their nativity. The musicians, dancers, actors and singers all helped to tell the story of Jesus' birth so wonderfully.

Netball:

Well done to the St Mary's netball team who played three games at the Greenwich tournament. The scores were: 6-0; 3-0 and 6-0 – what a dominant performance! They are now through to the qualifying round for the London Youth Games and will play a playoff against Discovery Primary, who were winners in the morning.

Singing for the Common Good:

In line with our Catholic Social Teaching principles, St Mary's choir sung this week at the Progress Hall for the Irish Elder Group and Y6 went to the Almshouses behind Eltham High Street.

Thank you for all your support.,

Kind regards

Mr Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 11th DECEMBER

Monday 11th

Guitar Concert 3.30pm. Gym Hall.

Tuesday 12th

Y5/Y6 Athletics Competition

Wednesday 13th

Nursery Christmas Show
9.30am & 2.30pm
Carol Concert at St George's
Cathedral, Southwark 7pm

Friday 15th

Children's Christmas Lunch

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/ END OF TERM EVENTS

Monday 11th December

Concert for Children Learning Guitar
3.30pm. Gym Hall

Wednesday 13th December

Nursery Christmas Show
Carol Service at St George's
Cathedral, Southwark. 7pm, Y3/4
Children.

Friday 15th December

Children's Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 19th December

Junior Carol Concert. 2pm.
Christchurch
Infant Children's Christmas Party

Thursday 21st December

Last Day of Term. 2pm Finish

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

ADVENT 2023

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.

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose

INFANT NATIVITY

Well done to the children and the Infant staff who worked so hard to organise a beautiful Nativity Concert. The teachers ensured that every child could be seen and had a part to play.

As soon as the recording is ready, we will email parents so that you can download the performance to enjoy at your leisure. Family members who were unable to attend will also be able to watch and enjoy. Please look out for information.

Each download will cost £5.

The Nursery children will perform their special Christmas concert on Wednesday 13th December. Parents and other family members are invited to come and see their children in the gym hall. No tickets are required for their show.

Nursery AM - 9.30am
Nursery PM – 2.30pm
Nursery All Day – Parents can come to either performance.

FAITH FRIENDS

On Wednesday, Mr Sims and Mrs Shallice accompanied the Faith Friends to Bishop Challoner School, Bromley, who hosted a retreat day led by their Senior Chaplaincy Team. The key words for the day were unity, friendships and Advent. The children were joined by children from St Joseph's School, Bromley and Bishop Challoner School.

The children really enjoyed meeting new people and look forward to taking part next year!



At lunchtime today, the Faith Friends helped to decorate the school Christmas tree. God's greatest gift to us is Jesus, so the children put all the different names for Jesus on the baubles. Can you think of any other names for Jesus....if so let us know.



LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

What Are Little Girls Made of?
Ages 1 – 5

Think you know your favourite classic nursery rhymes?

Read this hilarious picture book with a feminist twist and think again!

In this witty reworking of popular nursery rhymes, Georgie Porgie doesn't dare to make the girls cry, Little Bo-Peep's sheep are all present and correct, thank you, and it's the queen, OF COURSE, who fixes Humpty Dumpty. These nursery rhymes prove that girls can be the heroes of any story.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Grace Williams and Lily Fenn, RA, told the story of Jesus' birth in prayer time.

They also shared the story to the whole of the Infants during our Friday assembly, and spoke very confidently.



MUSIC NEWS

The Chamber Choir sang Christmas Carols at The Irish Elders Christmas Lunch on Tuesday. This took place at The Progress Hall in Eltham. We got this email from the organisers:

I am just writing with sincere thanks to you, the whole choir, teachers, parents and all involved in the visit to our Irish Elders Lunch on Tuesday at Progress Hall. It was such a great afternoon and having the choir there made all the difference.

I can tell you, for certain, that our elders will be talking about this for weeks to come. We were so impressed with the talent of the choir, a real treat and some great songs.



Christmas Carol Service at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

Children in Y3 and Y4 are invited to take part in the Diocesan Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 13th December in Southwark Cathedral. Each week since September Mr Greg Link from the Southwark Singing Programme, has visited the children to prepare for this special Christmas event.

Children who are attending the service need to be registered beforehand and should be accompanied by an adult, who will stay for the performance (finish approx 8.45pm). They will need to arrive at the cathedral at 7pm for the rehearsal, in school uniform. To sign your child up, please follow the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/SouthwarkCarols>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The only after school clubs that will take place next week are sewing club on Thursday and NFL on Friday. These sessions are to make up for cancelled classes this term.

All other clubs have now finished. Mrs Jeffrey has been very busy sorting out the clubs for next term and has been emailing the information to parents. Please look out for this information and ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Clubs will restart week beginning Monday 15th January 2024.

SPORTS NEWS

Miss Gannon, our PE co-ordinator, accompanied St Mary's netball team to Woolwich Poly Girls School yesterday to compete in a tournament, part of the Greenwich Youth Games. They managed to win 6-0; 6-3 and 6-0. What a great performance! Well, done to all the players.

Many thanks to Mrs Jones for providing transport.



PA NEWS

Christmas Raffle – You can now purchase tickets for the PA Christmas Raffle. Please click on the link below:

<https://raffall.com/349239/enter-raffle-to-win-exciting-prizes-hosted-by-parents-association>

Tickets cost £1.10 each. There are over 40 exciting prizes, such as M&S vouchers, Bluewater vouchers, a REISS tote bag, beauty/massage vouchers, Tudor Barn voucher, Chez Maitre voucher and bag and many more.

The draw will take place on 15th December 2023.

LEGO NEEDED

If you are having a clear out before Christmas, and you have any unwanted Lego, please bring it to the office as we will put it to good use.

Many thanks.