

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 8th November 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. It was lovely seeing the children return in their Winter uniform. I hope families are feeling recharged and ready for the exciting weeks ahead in the run up to Christmas.

We have so much to look forward to in this busy half term, from continued learning and growth to exciting Christmas events and activities that will bring our school community closer together. Please look out for all the Christmas dates so that you can attend any events that your child is participating in.

We had Tempest photography on site today taking individual/sibling photographs. Proofs will be handed to children when they arrive back at St Mary's. Ensure you order on time for Christmas.

We will observe a two-minute silence on Monday to commemorate Armistice Day. We remind children of the importance of this event, how we must be grateful for peace in our country and the sacrifices that people have made to make this happen.

Enjoy your weekend

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen
Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 11th
NOVEMBER

Monday 11th

Anti-Bullying Week

Remembrance Service at 11am. We will observe a two-minute silence.

Tuesday 12th

Open Morning for Prospective Parents
9.15am

Odd Sock Day

Y3 Class Mass. Convent. 10am

Wednesday 13th

Y4 Roman Day

Friday 15th

Y3 Stone Age Day

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Raphy, Bryony and James, 1D, prepared the altar and warmly welcomed everyone with a prayer that they thoughtfully selected. The children gathered to reflect on the story of the Lost Sheep. The story reminded us that God is like a shepherd who deeply cares for each of His people. Even when one strays or wanders away from what is good, God still cares, showing His endless love.



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

POETRY COMPETITION FINAL WEEK TO SUBMIT YOUR POEM

Royal Borough Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their **poetry competition**.

This year's theme is **COUNTING**.

Children can write any type of poem that they like, inspired by the theme of *counting*. The maximum number of lines is 20.

There will be a winner and a runner up for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Children can hand their entries to Mrs Thaxter (with their full name and class) by next Friday, 15th November.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week at St Mary's and this year's theme is '**Choose Respect**'. In each year group, we will discuss what bullying is and how we can work together to deal with this kind of behaviour. We will talk about kindness and compassion and how we must all embrace and respect differences.

On Tuesday 12th November, we will celebrate our differences by wearing different socks. The children are invited to wear odd socks with their school uniform to demonstrate differences. If your child finds this change from the usual uniform a challenge, perhaps they could make a small odd sock badge or picture to mark the day instead. We are looking forward to a vibrant week, with online workshops and assemblies throughout the week. Look out for updates on our X page!

For more information, please visit

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2024-choose-respect/parents-and-carers>

LITERACY



This week Mrs Thaxter recommends a poem.....

Today I'm a Drummer Richard James

*Today I'm a drummer
I'm drumming everywhere
I'm drumming on the table-top
I'm drumming on the chair
I'm drumming on the biscuit tin
I'm drumming on the bread
I'll drum my drums till evening comes
And then I'll drum in bed!*

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Southwark Catholic Education Service are running a Christmas card competition. Children are asked to design a Christmas card using the following themes:

- Mother and child
- Nativity through a stained-glass window
- Luke 2:7. And the angel said "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy"

Please hand all entries to Mrs Shallice by Thursday 14th November.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Children and adults will observe a two-minute silence on Monday 11th November at 11am to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Members of the Royal British Legion will join us. The Armistice was an agreement to end the fighting of World War 1 before the peace negotiations began on 11 November 1918 at 11am. We remember all those who have given their lives to preserve peace in our country.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting the Poppy Appeal.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Jack Saunders, 3G, was awarded his yellow belt in jiu-jitsu this week! A great achievement for Jack!



Alexander Birtchnell-Winter, RA, was awarded "player of the course" in his half term football camp. He was very proud of his achievement.



Myles and Cece Otley, 5K and 1D, made pumpkin pie from one of their Halloween pumpkins! Well done for recycling and making something delicious!



GREAT FIRE OF LONDON WORKSHOP

The Magic Lantern Company visited Y2 today. They took part in an art, history and drama workshop on The Great Fire of London 1666. Details about The Great Fire of London was documented through the diary of Samuel Pepys and also through works of art that were painted at that time. The children had great fun and were able to share all they already knew about The Great Fire, as well as learn new things through paintings and drama.



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 2025. The deadline to submit your application is Wednesday 15th January 2025. 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/Admissions-04122019150956/>

https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200286/application_for_a_school_place/458/apply_for_a_primary_school_place

There is an open morning at St Mary's on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 9.15am. Please inform anyone you know with Reception/Nursery age children who would like to see the school with a view to applying.

PA NEWS

The PA would like to thank all the families for coming to the Laser Show evening last Saturday at St Mary's. Events such as these could not happen without the support of the families at St Mary's. It was wonderful to see families enjoying the display and having a social evening with friends and family. All funds raised contribute to helping all the children at St Mary's.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 6th December – Wreath Making. This popular festive annual event will take place in the gym hall. Tickets cost £40. All the materials and tools needed to make a wreath will be provided.

There are two sessions available:

1pm-3pm: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/1459986>

6pm-8pm: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/1460004>

Children's Christmas Cards:

Before half term the children worked hard to design their own personalised Christmas cards. The proofs have arrived and the children should have their proof in their bookbag today. Please ensure you take a look. Details about ordering are outlined on the proof. The deadline for ordering is **Monday 18th November**.

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

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 - Friday	Time
15 November	5pm – 6.30pm
16 November	4pm – 5.30pm
29 November	5pm – 6.30pm
30 November	4pm – 5.30pm
10 January	5pm – 6.30pm
11 January	4pm – 5.30pm
17 January	5pm – 6.30pm
18 January	4pm – 5.30pm
7 February	5pm – 6.30pm
8 February	4pm – 5.30pm

Date for your diary:

Sunday 24th November – Christchurch Christmas Fayre 10am – 1pm.

If you have unwanted or unused toys, gifts or bottles, please consider donating them to Christchurch. There are black bins at the end of the church to take donations.

If you would like to rent out a stall, please contact Halina Faratro on halinkagawor@hotmail.co.uk.