

Weekly Newsletter  
Friday 9th December 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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#### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

Christmas time is always busy in a primary school. This week we were delighted to see the Infant Nativity in the hall; the children sung, performed and danced so well. *It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!* Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to put on this production for the school.

In true British tradition, the children were treated by The Parents' Association to a pantomime today in the hall. The Infants watched in the morning while the Juniors watched in the afternoon. The children were encouraged to participate and join in the pantomime and heard about the story of Aladdin, Jasmine and the Magic Lamp.

This morning, I took the St Mary's school netball tournament to enter their first tournament at Woolwich Poly Girls School in Thamesmead. The girls were awarded the values award by the sports leaders for having such self-belief in themselves. We are very proud of them.

Have a nice weekend.

Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 12th DECEMBER

#### Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Instrument Concert in Gym Hall –  
3.30pm

#### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>

J'amie's Gymnastics End of Term  
Performance for Parents – 4pm

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

Junior Carol Concert in Christchurch –  
2pm

Nursery and KS1 Christmas Parties

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

J'amie's Gymnastics End of Term  
Performance for Parents – 8.30am  
Children's Christmas Dinner  
Y3/Y4 Children Singing at St George's  
Cathedral – 7pm

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

KS2 Christmas Parties  
School closes at 2pm for the Christmas  
Holiday. Please ensure you collect your  
child on time.

#### ADVENT 2022

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle on the Advent Wreath, the rose candle, will be lit at Mass on Sunday. The priests will wear rose vestments to emphasise the joyous occasion that is coming.

#### An Advent Prayer

*"Heavenly Father, heal my heart  
during this season of Advent.  
Help me to love more fully.  
To forgive more generously.  
To wait more patiently for  
Christmas,  
embracing each day and hour  
knowing the joy that awaits.  
In Your name, I pray.  
Amen."*

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

## 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. Parents can now order a recording of the performance on DVD. The PA will endeavour to get the DVD to parents before Christmas so you can take your time watching the concert all over again at your leisure. A downloaded version (£8) will also be available for parents so as soon as this is ready we will email parents.

Payment for the DVD version (£10) can be made on Wisepay (under general products).

## JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT

The children from Y3 – Y6 will take part in the Junior Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December in Christchurch at 2pm. Parents and other family members are very welcome to join us. This is a beautiful service, sure to fill your heart with Christmas cheer. Please ensure you arrive early if you want a seat as the church fills up very quickly.

At the end of the Service, parents are welcome to take their children home slightly earlier. Any child not collected will return to school and leave at the usual time (3.15pm). Teachers have asked if parents can let them know if other arrangements are made. Sometimes, parents have been asked to collect other children so please let the teachers know, in advance, if these arrangements have been made. Messages or emails can be sent to the main office where they will be passed to teachers. Safeguarding guidance must always be followed.

## MUSIC NEWS

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

### Diocesan Christmas Carol Service

Children in Y3 and Y4 are invited to take part in the Diocesan Christmas Carol Concert on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December in Southwark Cathedral. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to sing with other schools in an historical setting. Each week since September the Assistant Director of the Southwark Singing Programme, Mr Joe Cryan, has visited the children to sing with them and to prepare for this special 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. To sign your child up, please follow the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/StGeorgesCarolService>

## UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/END OF TERM EVENTS

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Musical Instrumental Concert – 3.30pm

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Gymnastics End of Term Show – 4pm

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

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

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

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

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Junior Christmas Parties  
Last Day of Term – 2pm

## UNIFORM

Please make sure that your children are wearing warm hats, scarves and gloves in the cold weather. These items are available to buy in the school uniform shop. All items must be plain navy. They look smart and complement the rest of the uniform.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SPORTS NEWS

Mr Sims took some of our Y6 girls to a netball tournament today, in Woolwich Polytechnic for Girls in Thamesmead.

The girls met very tough competition during their matches but played with resilience and determination in each match. Well done to Chizzie Okpara, Saphyre Igwe Clovis, Vittoria Arleo, Ania Harding, Hayleigh Roberts, Daisy Hill and Lilah Cork.

Many thanks to Mr Harding for accompanying the children.

## STAFF VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for a Midday Meals Supervisor to start as soon as possible, a Teaching Assistant and an Early Years Practitioner at school. The successful candidates will work as part of a team in their specific roles.

If you are interested in applying for any of the positions, please contact our business Manager, Mrs Pampling, for an application form.

## PA NEWS

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Event at Eltham Football Club (The Oaks) 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! Please ensure you arrive 15 minutes before your booking as there may be a queue. If you would like to visit the grotto 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! Tickets can be purchased until 2am on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

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

## ENERGY CRISIS GRANT

Please read some important information about an Energy Crisis Grant that has recently been made available for certain households. Click on this link to read in detail.

[Mayor of London's energy crisis grant.](#)

If you think you qualify, please follow the instructions about the application process. If you have any question please contact:

Camilla Berens  
Chair and communications lead  
[SE London Community Energy](#)  
Tel: 07811-451417

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Gymnastics and sewing clubs will be the only clubs taking place next week. 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 to avoid disappointment.

Children who take part in gymnastics will be showing their parents what they have learned this term in a show at the end of their lesson on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> (gymnastics 4pm) and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (gymnastics 8.30am).

## A MINDFUL MOMENT

I breathe in calm, I breathe out calm

I breathe in peace, I breathe out peace

I breathe in love, I breathe out love  
I breathe in strength, I breathe out strength

I breathe in harmony, I breathe out harmony.

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