

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th November 2021

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WEEK BEGINNING 15/11/2021

Monday 15th November

Anti-Bullying week begins

Odd Sock Day for pupils and staff

Tuesday 16th November

Class J celebrate their class Mass in the Convent

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, the School Council presented to the peers about their role and how this role links to the democratic process in the UK. They plan to revise the school's inclusion policy, as they want to make sure that everyone at St Mary's feels included and valued. Thank you all for showing such strong leadership.



At St Mary's we regularly talk to the children about the school values and how they guide us in our behaviour, in and out of school. We ask that our parents and carers demonstrate these values when interacting with each other, as the children will follow our lead in our actions.

I was pleased to meet with the Diversity and Inclusion group this week. The group reviewed the actions from previous meetings and set some new targets for the school to achieve. We are proud of our diverse community and want to ensure that all people feel valued and included.

Kind regards

Mr J Sims
Headteacher

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday 28th November

Advent begins

Wednesday 1st December

Y6 Samba Concert

Thursday 2nd/Friday 3rd December

Fr John on site blessing crib figures

Friday 3rd December

PA Event – Wreath Making

Saturday 4th December

PA Event – Christmas Fair

Tuesday 7th/Wednesday 8th

December

Infant Nativity

Thursday 9th December

Children's Christmas Lunch

Friday 10th December

PA Event – Children's Disco

Monday 13th December

Instrumental Concert

Wednesday 15th December

Junior Carol Concert at Christchurch

Thursday 15th December

School closes at 2pm for the Christmas holiday

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At this time of year, we must take some time to reflect on the past, the loss of lives through conflict and the need to pray at all times for peace. Many families are torn apart from the loss of life through war.

Services all over the country will be taking place this Sunday to remember all those who have given their lives in service of our country. We observed a period of silence yesterday, with a representative from The Royal British Legion.

Many thanks for your kind donations to The Poppy Appeal, a very worthy charity.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Next week at St Mary's we will celebrate anti-bullying week. The theme of this week is "one kind word".

Mrs Otley, our PHSE coordinator, has planned a wonderful week focusing on acts of kindness and gratitude to each other. As well as discussions in each class, assemblies will take place all week throughout the whole school.

A kindness tree will be constructed in the main entrance for children to decorate with pieces of drawing and words of kindness that they wish to share.

Mrs Kingdon and the Faith Friends have already started helping children on "Thankful Thursday" to show gratitude to their friends and teachers.

On Monday 15th November, we would like to encourage the children to come to school wearing **odd socks**! Normal school uniform must be worn but the children can wear whatever type of socks they wish, as long as they are odd. This will demonstrate how we are all different and how we must all accept each other despite differences.

Prior to next week, please talk to your children about the importance of showing kindness and consideration and maybe make your own version of a kindness tree at home.

"Kindness is doing what you can, where you are, with what you have"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The KS2 teachers would like to say a big thank you to the children for their projects on **Inspirational Black Women**, which were completed during the half term break to celebrate Black History Month.

Every year we set a focus project for the children and the quality and diversity of the work produced is always outstanding.

The projects are being displayed in the gym hall and dining hall so the whole school can admire and learn from the inspirational women that have been explored.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hope, Ruby and Poppy Salter (41) passed their IDTA Freestyle Bronze dance exam with a grade of Highly Commended.

Very well done to the girls!



CLASSES 3G AND 3H

The children and teachers from Y3 were based in the gym hall this week as their classrooms were being rewired. Lessons took place as normal and the children have been amazing adapting to their temporary environment. They are all looking forward to going back "home" on Monday!

Many thanks to the teachers and TA's for making this temporary arrangement work without fuss.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The children have been given the proofs today to take home. Photos can be ordered online and they will then be delivered to the school. We will distribute them as soon as they arrive.

Photos make a cherished Christmas gift so ensure you order promptly.

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

Y2 ART AND HISTORY WORKSHOP – THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON 1666

The Magic Lantern Company visited Y2 today. The children took part in an art, history and drama workshop on The Great Fire of London 1666. The children had great fun and were able to share all that they already knew about The Great Fire as well as learn new aspects through paintings and drama.



YEAR 3 STONE AGE DAY 2021



Children in Y3 were visited by a Stone Age specialist today and everyone dressed up in the style from this period. These activities enrich our curriculum and which help children know more and remember more. We are so pleased that children experienced a range of activities to help their learning.



SPORTING NEWS

Mr Sims accompanied some Y6 children to an Athletics event in Shooters Hill this week. The children did their best and are currently awaiting to hear where they came in the competition. Mr Sims was very proud of the sportsmanship displayed by the children and the respect they showed to the other competitors.

Many thanks to the parents for providing transport at such short notice. We are very fortunate to have such supportive parents.

Well done to the following children:

Neo, Vittoria, Amber, Hugh, Scout, Frankie, Kylan, Tobias, Grace, Maya, Alice, Wisdom, Daniel, Jesica, Betty, Ronnie, Ciara and Gabriella.

PA EVENTS

Many thanks to everyone who supported the fireworks evening last Saturday. The crowds were amazing. We had great weather, despite an earlier show of rain, and the display was amazing.

The PA's treasurer, Mrs Sarah Rawlins, is so pleased to report that approx. **£3,000** profit was raised on the night. What fantastic news! This money has ensured that the PA can now donate a whopping **£10,000** towards the Sport's Pitch! Many thanks to everyone for making this happen.

Wreath Making **03/12/21**

This is always a very popular event. The gym hall will turn into a haven of creativity while adults come and create a beautiful wreath for their front door. There is a real feeling of achievement when you see the finished wreath! Spaces are limited so booking is essential. Please click on the link to book your slot:

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryswreathmaking/608798>

There are two timeslots to book – 1.30pm and 6pm. Tickets cost £25, which will include all the materials to make a wreath, a glass of mulled wine and wonderful company!

Christmas Fair **04/12/21**

Santa's Grotto will be open at the Christmas Fair from 12noon - 4pm. Tickets are now available to purchase. Spaces are limited so we are asking for this to remain for the children of St Mary's please.

Please click on this link to purchase tickets:

<https://fixr.co/event/308802426>

Children's Disco **10/12/21**

More details to follow but the timings are as follows:

3.15pm – 4.15pm	Reception, Y1 and Y2
4.30pm – 5.30pm	Y3 and Y4
5.45pm – 6.45pm	Y5 and Y6

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