

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 21st December 2023

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM MR GARY FARRELLY CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

This term at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School has been filled with outstanding achievements. Our children's Christmas performances were a true highlight, showcasing our students' exceptional talents and dedicated staff. These performances were a true embodiment of our new mission, 'Nurturing our God-given talents', underscoring our commitment to recognising and developing each child's unique abilities.

Academically, we continue to excel, a testament to the dedication of our staff and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. In sports, our pupils have excelled, demonstrating resilience, respect and a determination to do their best, resulting in them bringing home a host of accolades.

Looking ahead to the next term, we are eager to build upon these successes and continue fostering an environment where every pupil can thrive. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Admissions Consultation

As a reminder, the school's admissions criteria are currently under consultation with the main change being adopting the Catholic Certificate of Practice rather than the Supplementary Form. This is something that schools across the Diocese are being asked to facilitate and is being directed by the Archbishop, who is the ultimate authority for Catholic Schools in Southwark.

The Diocese has issued guidance which is available on their website or a link which is available here.

<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Guidance-on-School-Admissions-August-2023.pdf>

On behalf of the governing body, I would like to wish you and your families a restful break and a Happy Christmas.

Kind regards

Mr G Farrelly
Chair of Governors



Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 8th JANUARY

Monday 8th

Children return to school after the Christmas break
Whole School Mass 10am – Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday 9th January

Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Thursday 11th

Live session with TenTen for Y5/Y6
Parents – Online Safety
Class G Swimming

JUNIOR CAROL CONCERT

Yesterday, we were very fortunate to have Canon Victor Darlington speak to our Junior families at the Carol Concert in Christchurch; he encouraged us all to be joyful this Christmas!

Well done to all the children who sung so beautifully and to all the families who attended.



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

ADVENT 2023

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "**Angel's Candle,**" symbolises peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

A REFLECTION ON WINTER

*There is a winter in all of our lives,
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn
for days that have gone
or put our hope in the days yet to be.*

*We need a winter in our lives,
like nature around us,
a time of rest, a time to stand still,
a time to acquaint ourselves
with the faith in which we live.*

*It is only then that we can draw strength from
the one in whom we are rooted
take time to grow and rise through the
darkness
into the warm glow of your springtime.
Amen.*

MASS TIMES AT CHRISTCHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

5.00pm (Vigil Mass),
8.00pm (Vigil Mass),
Midnight Mass

Monday 25th Christmas Day

9.30am Children's Mass
11.30am Mass

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends spoke to the Infants about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. They learned that in Poland a space at the Christmas table is always set for an unexpected guest!

Heavenly Father, Bless Christmas celebrations worldwide with love, peace, and joy. May your light unite hearts and bring comfort to those in need.



LITERACY

Mrs Thaxter recommends.....

If I Had a Little Dream
Ages 4-8

Celebrate the wonder of the world in this reassuring picture book about the joy, love, and beauty that is part of each and every day. Our world is full of possibilities if you look for them.



We are so pleased to confirm the results of the Greenwich Borough Poetry Competition on the theme of *Refuge!*

Key Stage 1

Winner: Joshua Ndebele, Y2, Class E.

Special Mention: Brendan Behan, Y2, Class E.

Key Stage 2

Winner – Evelyn Shallice, Y5, Class K

Also, Clara Lopez is through to the second stage of the BBC 500 word competition. She wrote a story called **Sam, The Dragon and His Family**. The BBC received thousands and thousands of entries and only 5,000 go through for the second round of judging by the Reading Agency. Huge congratulations to Clara and sending her lots of luck for the next round.

A TOUCH OF REFUGE AND SAFETY IN MY HEART

As I looked around a "normal" day

I realised that by noon we would be going, leaving, fleeing, escaping.

As I looked around a "normal" day

I see bombs, death, crying, sadness.

As I looked around a "normal" day

I hear explosions and booms rattling my eardrums.

As I looked around a "normal" day

I stare at my home fading into the distance as I float away on a small boat.

As I look around a "normal" day

I sit in my new bed looking at the glimpse of refuge peeking through my heart.

By Evelyn Shallice 5K

SAFETY

Safety is playing with Lego

Safety is laying on the couch watching my favourite shows

Safety is playing basketball with my family in the garden

Safety is reading nice books

Safety is riding my bike in the sunshine

Safety is swimming in the warm water at the beach

Safety is writing a story

Safety is making homemade pizza and eating it warm from the oven

Safety is playing tickle monster with dad

Safety is goodnight cuddles

Safety is roasting marshmallows on the fire

Safety is my grandma's carrot cake

Safety is dressing up as Spider-Man

Safety is going to my friend's house

Safety is playing with my Hot Wheels track with my brother

Safety is kindness, love, playing and feeling happy.

By Joshua Ndebele, 2E

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Class A | Thomas, Camara |
| Class B | Raphael, Molly |
| Class C | Herbie, Luella |
| Class D | Beau, Eile |
| Class E | Albert, Fenella |
| Class F | Ralph, Emily |
| Class G | Frank, Winnie |
| Class H | Zealand, Maria |
| Class I | Arlen, Isabella |
| Class J | Sienna, Samuel |
| Class K | Rio, Olivia/Holly/Betsy |
| Class L | Luke, Grace O |
| Class M | Oliver, Giulia |
| Class N | Jan, Sofia |

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING SCHOOL VALUES

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Class A | Mark, Isabella |
| Class B | Lucas, Connie |
| Class C | Damian, Joana |
| Class D | Joseph, Olive |
| Class E | Lionel, Amelia |
| Class F | Woody, Florence |
| Class G | Samuel, Viola |
| Class H | Zicora, Kisabelle |
| Class I | Albie, Isla |
| Class J | Philip, Raessa |
| Class K | Sean, Hanna |
| Class L | Franco, Amelia |
| Class M | Noah, Poppy |
| Class N | Rafe, Alice |

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Class A | Martha |
| Class B | Oliver |
| Class C | Charlotte |
| Class D | Nora |
| Class E | Annabelle |
| Class F | Eden |
| Class G | Connie |
| Class H | Victoria |
| Class I | Henry |
| Class J | Connie |
| Class K | Jan |
| Class L | Maja |
| Class M | Austin |
| Class N | Jenaro |

ATTENDANCE

TUESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 – THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER 2023

| RA | RB | 1C | 1D | 2E | 2F | 3G | 3H | 4I | 4J | 5K | 5L | 6M | 6N |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 94% | 98% | 96% | 96% | 97% | 95% | 97% | 97% | 96% | 96% | 97% | 97% | 96% | 96% |

The teachers would like to bring parents attention to attendance. It is so important that children attend school every day but it is also understandable that children get sick and need to take time off to recover. Student absence has been high this half term as children and adults struggled with winter viruses but despite this, families have been sensible as the term ends with good-natured celebrations.

Well done to class RB for achieving the highest attendance this term. Let us hope the Christmas break will give everyone a well-deserved rest to recharge for the new term.

STAFF VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Middy Meals Supervisor to start as soon as possible. The successful candidate will work as part of a team, helping out during the children's lunch break.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact our business Manager, Mrs Pampling, for an application form.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

The Sisters of Mercy would like to send their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their kind donations and generosity this Christmas.

The children in their charities will have a special Christmas.

Many thanks to the Faith Friends and the School Council for organising.

Y2 CREATIVITY

Year 2 were very creative with the Lego on the last day of term. They worked collaboratively to create some popular Christmas characters. Great team work!

