

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 25th November 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Glenure Road, Eltham. SE9 1UF

020 8850 7835

headteachers@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org

office@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk

Twitter: @stmaryseltham

Visit us online at www.stmaryrc.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

First Sunday of Advent

This weekend will mark the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. It is very exciting when we know that someone is coming to visit us. We make sure that we are ready when they come. Sunday's Gospel will inform us to be ready when Jesus comes again but we cannot be exactly sure, when that will be.

Athletics Results

Some parents will already have seen this news, but St Mary's were crowned Greenwich Indoor Athletics Champions for the third time out of the last four tournaments. This is an excellent achievement to be able to sustain this high standard and be ranked first out of over 60 primary schools in Greenwich Borough. We will be representing Greenwich at the London Youth Games Finals in February in Carshalton. Thanks to Mr MacGrath for all the preparation, which makes a huge difference.

I hope that as many of you as possible can visit the Christchurch Christmas Fair and see the St Mary's Chamber Choir perform on Sunday (10.30am). The children should come smartly dressed in school uniform along with Christmas accessories.

Mr J Sims
Headteacher



WEEK BEGINNING 28th NOVEMBER

Sunday 27th

First Day of Advent
Christmas Fair at Christchurch

Tuesday 29th

Class K Mass

Wednesday 30th

St Andrew's Day. We wish all our Scottish friends a happy day.

Thursday 1st

Fr John on site for Blessing of Crib Figures – EYFS and KS1
Y6 Charlton Athletic Football Tournament
Sparkle in the Park – Chamber Choir singing at Well Hall Pleasance

Friday 25th

Fr John on site for Blessing of Crib Figures – KS2
Chamber Choir singing Christmas Carols at Passey Place, Eltham – 10.30am
PA Event – Wreath Making

CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Isabella Vinante-Hellens, 4I, recently achieved a distinction in her musical theatre exam.

Jack Gibbons (4I), Leo Pampling (4J) and Sicily Morrison (4J) competed at a rugby festival in Sidcup Rugby Club and won two out of their four matches.

Well done to all the children!



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

ADVENT 2022

*You will receive power from the Holy Spirit
Let us always be strengthened and guided by the Spirit.
Pope Francis*

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. All classroom focal areas will change to purple next week to mark the beginning of this season of hope. The word Advent is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". We can all now look forward to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. It is a time to reflect on our lives, a time to slow down and remember the real reason for Christmas. Maybe set aside some extra time each day for prayer. Think about others and encourage your children to reflect with you. An Advent calendar is attached for families to follow during this special season.

The first candle on the Advent wreath, which symbolises hope, will be lit at all Masses on Sunday.

INFANT NATIVITY

The staff and children are practicing very hard for their special performance, **Our School Nativity**. You may have heard them singing the songs!

The performances will take place at 2pm on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th at 2pm.

Tickets will be available to collect from the main office from Tuesday 29th November. There will be **two tickets per family** and when you collect, you can specify which day you prefer. Tickets that are not needed can be returned to the office and given out as extras. Tickets will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

The Nursery children will perform a special Christmas concert on Tuesday 6th December. Parents are invited to come and see their children in the gym hall.
Nursery AM – 11am
Nursery PM – 2.45pm
Nursery All Day – Parents can come to either performance.

The performance will be recorded so parents will be able to purchase a DVD or download. More details to follow.

Many thanks to Mr Pinheiro and Ms Reed for helping Mrs Kingdon set the stage up today.

BLESSING OF THE CRIBS

Fr John will be on site on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December to bless the cribs at school.

We would like the children to bring to school their own crib figures from home so that Fr John can bless them. He will bless crib figures from the Nursery and Infant children on Thursday 1st and Junior children on Friday 2nd.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS/END OF TERM EVENTS

Sunday 27th November

The first day of Advent
Christmas Fair at Christchurch. Chamber Choir singing at 10.30am

Thursday 1st/Friday 2nd December

Fr John on site blessing crib figures

Thursday 1st Friday

Sparkle in the Park – Chamber Choir

Friday 2nd December

PA Event – Wreath Making
Christmas Carol singing at Passey Place – Chamber Choir

Monday 5th December

PA selling preloved Christmas Jumpers – 2.30pm

Tuesday 6th December

Nursery Christmas Performance – 11am & 2.45pm

Wednesday 7th/Thursday 8th December

Infant Nativity 1.30pm

Thursday 8th December

Y6 visit Almshouses for Christmas

Friday 9th December

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich & Bexley Hospice
Children's Christmas Panto
Creative Stars End of Term Performance – 4pm

Monday 12th December

Musical Instrumental Concert – 3.30pm

Tuesday 13th December

Gymnastics End of Term Show – 4pm

Wednesday 14th December

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

Thursday 15th December

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

Friday 16th December

Junior Christmas Parties
Last Day of Term – 2pm

UPDATE FROM OUR GARDENING CLUB

The children in our gardening club are really enjoying it. This week, Mrs Everett and the children, made their own composters out of plastic bottles. The children enjoyed filling them up with soil, leaves, kitchen peelings and other garden matter. They learnt about the process of decomposition and they learned about the ideal 'recipe' for nutrient rich compost.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos can be ordered online. Orders placed by Monday 28th November will be delivered to St Mary's. There will be no delivery charge for these photos. Photos ordered after this date will incur a postage fee.

We will distribute the photos as soon as they arrive back at St Mary's.

FIRST AID COURSE

All KS2 children took part in a first aid workshop run by paramedic, Mr Michael Parsons. They learned about the different ways in which they could help themselves or someone else in an emergency.



PA NEWS

The Parent's Association has some exciting events coming up before Christmas!

Friday 2nd December – Wreath Making. This popular festive annual event will take place in the gym hall. Tickets can be purchased by following the link:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspa/798687>

The tickets cost £25 and this will include all the materials need to make a wreath with a glass of mulled wine/prosecco and a mince pie! Be quick as this event sells out quickly.

Monday 5th December – Preloved Christmas Jumper Day – 3.15pm. If you, or if you know anyone who has Christmas jumpers they no longer require, please bring them to the main office. Christmas jumper day will take place in school on Friday 9th December in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

Sunday 11th December – Christmas Event at Eltham Football Club – 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! If you would like to visit him 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 – Please look out for more information. There are some great prizes to be won. The link for purchasing tickets will be available from Monday 28th November. Tickets will be £1 each.

A MINDFUL MOMENT

*In the midst of movement and
chaos,
Keep stillness inside of you*

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