

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd December 2021

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we draw towards Christmas, I want to take this opportunity to remind parents of the Covid guidance that has been issued by the government and how it affects our life in school. It is very important that we all follow this guidance, as throughout our community there are individuals who are considered critically vulnerable.

Children should not come into school if:

- they are displaying Covid 19 symptoms
- have had a positive test result
- been advised by NHS Test and Trace service to do so.

If anyone in school develops Covid-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and parents should follow public health advice – this normally means taking a PCR test. Children must not return to school before their test results have come back in.

Full schools guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/covid-19-schools-operational-guidance>

Christmas Events

We are closely monitoring the situation in school and at present we are proceeding with our Christmas events. However, it is likely that should these events proceed then we will ask all parents to wear a mask and complete a Lateral Flow Test before they come into school. We will not be asking to see the results but trust that parents will support us in this matter.

Parents should be aware that if the situation in school significantly changes, then we may be forced to cancel some events.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards
Mr J Sims
Headteacher

Saturday 4th December

PA Event – Christmas Fair

WEEK BEGINNING 06/12/2021

Monday 6th December

Nursery Christmas performance

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th December

Infant Nativity at 1.30pm

Wednesday 8th December

Creative Stars drama production 4pm

Thursday 9th December

Children's Christmas lunch

Open morning for prospective parents to St Mary's 9.15am

Friday 10th December

Christmas jumper day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice and own clothes day for all children and staff

PA Event – Children's Christmas disco

FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 13th December

Instrumental Concert

Wednesday 15th December

Junior Carol Concert at Christchurch

Thursday 16th December

School closes at 2pm for the Christmas holiday

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

ADVENT 2021

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. The second candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit at Mass on Sunday. We will continue our reflection as we look ahead and await the birth of Jesus, the child that we need in our lives in different ways at different stages of life.

The second candle is the candle of faith. It is also known as the Bethlehem Candle to remind us of the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem.

Please click on this link to read the latest Ten Ten Parent Newsletter. There are some interesting articles to read and share with your families.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

INFANT NATIVITY

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th December – 1.30pm

There are still tickets for the Infant Nativity available in the main office. There are two tickets issued to each family so if you have not already picked your tickets please ring the main office and the ladies will help.

The seats in the main hall will be numbered so every parent attending will be given a number before entering the main hall. Parents must be seated in their numbered seat by 1.30pm. Parents will need to wear a face mask and we ask that they complete a lateral flow test.

Please ensure you are on time, as we do not want to disturb children whilst they are reading, acting or singing.

Children will return to their classes when they have finished performing. They will change back into their uniform and parents may collect them earlier from the usual side exit doors.

Junior children will not be allowed to leave earlier.

A DVD of the performance will be available to buy. More details will follow about the cost when the final production is ready.

NURSERY CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

The Nursery staff are looking forward to their children's Christmas performance on Monday 6th December. The children have been working very hard!

There are two performances:

9am – NAM

2.45pm – NPM

The parents of the children who attend full time nursery can go to either performance.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thursday 9th December

Please let the Main Office know if your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch. We like to see all the children taking part. However, if your child still wishes to have a packed lunch on this day that is no problem. They will still be part of the fun. Christmas lunch costs £2.59 so please make payment on Wisepay.

Please remember that all Infant children receive a universal free school meal.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Well done to all the children who play for Blackheath Ruby Club who participated in a rugby tournament at Twickenham last weekend. Many tries were scored and the children all played brilliantly.

Congratulations to Peter Griffin, Sicily Morrison, Jack Gibbons and Oliver Marnham.



Alice Huille (6M) recently took part in the Black Lion Swimming Gala and won four bronze medals. Alice is part of the Greenwich Royals swimming squad.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY Friday 10th December

Next Friday, 10th, is Christmas jumper day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. The School Council wanted St Mary's to take part so please try to support. If you do not want to buy one, decorate an existing jumper to make it festive. Adding a little bit of sparkle will make any jumper feel like Christmas!

We are encouraging every child who takes part to give a donation to the chosen charity but the main thing is to take part and whatever you can give is fine. As the children's disco is taking place next Friday, the children can wear their own clothes as well as a Christmas jumper.

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

SPORTING EVENT

Some of our Y6 boys took part in a football tournament this morning at Footscray Rugby Club. They played some great football and won two of the games they played, drew one and lost one.

Many thanks to the parents who supported the team and to Mr Palmer for coaching the team.

The team consisted of the following players:

Edward Conn, Hugh and Scout Courtney, Jack Dineen, Antonio Franco De Oliveria, Daniel Moss and Ronnie Penfold.

WARM CLOTHES

Please make sure that your children are wearing warm hats and scarves in the cold weather. Both of these items are available to buy in the school office and payment can be made on Wisepay.

All items must be plain navy.

Hats cost £4 and scarves £4.75.

PA EVENTS

Christmas Fair Saturday 04/12/21

Santa's Grotto will be open at the Christmas Fair from 12pm - 4pm. Please ensure you have proof of purchase when you turn up.

The PA have worked very hard at organising this event so please come if you can.

There will be hot food, a crepe stall, mulled wine, fairground rides and an indoor Christmas market. While Santa is busy seeing the children in the grotto, his reindeer will need a little tender loving care make sure your children get to see the live reindeer.

Tickets for the Christmas raffle can be purchased by clicking on the following link. There are great prizes to be won, donated by the families at St Mary's and the local community, so give it a go!

<https://raffall.com/275961/enter-raffle-to-win-hosted-by-st-marys-pa-hosted-by-parents-association>

Mrs McGarry, our music coordinator, will also be singing with her adult choir, The Belles, at 1pm so please come along to listen to some beautiful singing. Mrs McGarry will also be leading the Chamber Choir singing Christmas melodies at 2pm. The singing is already sounding magnificent so please come along on the day to enjoy!

Children's Disco Friday 10/12/21

Tickets can be purchased through Wisepay (£3). The children will be wearing their own clothes to school on that day to make it easier for the children going straight to their disco at 3.15pm.

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

E-SAFETY

With lots of families welcoming new online devices into their households at this time of year, it is important to remember how to do this safely. There are many options for safety settings and filtering that are useful, especially for children's devices.

Help your family stay safe online with the information in the Vodafone Digital Parenting magazine. An online copy can be found using the link below:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/FA7569CC5A8/digital-parenting-by-vodafone-2021-edition/full-view.html>

Hard copies will also be sent to the main office. Please inform the office staff if you would like a hard copy or if you require any support setting up new devices safely.

Six Online Safety Messages

Click the link to ensure that you know how to keep your children safe online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/six-online-safety-messages-from-net-awares-six-years/>

- Talk about Online Safety
- Agree some rules about how they spend their time online
- Look at the tools available to help
- Explore the online activities your child likes
- Look out for signs they might need more support
- Know where to get further support