

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th December 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Nurturing Our God-Given Talents

WEEK BEGINNING 9th DECEMBER

Tuesday 10th

Chamber Choir singing in Passey Place, Eltham. 12 noon – 2pm

End of term gymnastics show 4pm

Wednesday 11th / 12th December

Infant Nativity 1.30pm

Wednesday 11th

Last day for donating children's gift for charity

Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Voluntary donation

Y6 visit the Almshouses

Y5 attend Bexley Grammar School for Pantomime

Y5/6 Athletics Competition in Shooter's Hill
Creative Stars end of term show – 4.15pm

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

At my assemblies this week, I revisited the theme of “*choose respect*”, the message we highlighted during anti bullying week. Choosing respect means choosing empathy, choosing understanding and choosing to lift each other up, even when it is not easy, each and every day.

As Christmas draws near, the school is alive with excitement and anticipation. Many thanks to the PA for decorating the school so beautifully – the children and adults alike love it!

We look forward to the Infant Nativity next week. The children are excited to perform for their families.

Christmas is not only about gifts and glitter but also about kindness, giving, and coming together as a community. It's heartwarming to see our pupils embracing these values, from their participation in charity drives to the beautiful artwork and performances brightening our halls.

Enjoy your weekend and take care

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen
Head of School

ADVENT 2024

The second candle on the Advent wreath will be lit at all Masses on Sunday. This is a purple candle, known as the Bethlehem Candle, symbolising faith and the journey Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem.

The St Mary's crib has been set up in the main entrance. The children love stopping to take a look as they go by. The three wise kings are making their journey through the school to reach the crib on the feast of the Epiphany.

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose

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

FURTHER CHRISTMAS/
END OF TERM EVENTS



Monday 16th December
Children's Christmas lunch

Tuesday 17th December
A secret visitor will be on site!

Wednesday 18th December
Junior Carol Concert. Christchurch. 2pm
PA Event – Christmas raffle results

Thursday 19th December
Christmas Panto for whole school

Friday 20th December
Last day of this term. 2pm finish

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends gathered the Infant children at lunchtime today to write Advent promises. The older children spoke about using Advent as a time to draw closer to God by being a good friend and by helping those who need help. The children hung their promises on the Christmas tree.

Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord, Amen.



INFANT NATIVITY
NURSERY CHRISTMAS SHOW

The children are working very hard preparing for their special Christmas performance, ***The Nativity***.

The performances will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December in the gym hall.

Babies and younger children will not be allowed to attend the performances as it can be overwhelming for the children on stage. Younger children can sometimes shout out and distract. Please ensure alternative childcare.

Tickets that are not required can be returned to the main office so that the office staff can offer them out as extras.

The performance will be recorded so parents will be able to purchase a download. More details will follow after the recording.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Next Friday, 13th December, is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Please do not feel you have to purchase a new jumper; decorate an existing jumper to make it festive. We have seen many interesting creations over the years! We are encouraging every child to take part and if you wish, you can give a voluntary contribution to the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice.

Normal school uniform must be worn with the Christmas jumper.

If you wish to donate a gift to the Sisters of Mercy charity appeal please drop it at the main office by Wednesday 11th December. Many thanks for all your support.

LITERACY



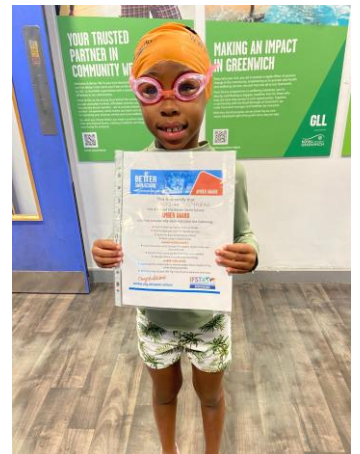
This week Ms Gannon recommends a poem.....

A Chubby Little Snowman
Anonymous

*A chubby little snowman
Had a carrot nose.
Along came a bunny,
And what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny
Looking for some lunch,
Grabbed that snowman's nose,
Nibble, nibble, crunch!*

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Keziah Gyabaa, 3H, recently achieved her amber award in swimming and has progressed to the green group. Well done Keziah!



Some of the children had their photo taken with a celebrity (Helen Lederer) at Westmount Christmas Lights Up!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the school council meeting this week, the children suggested that they would like packed lunch children and school dinner children to sit next to each other in the dining hall. We thought it was a great suggestion and the children loved doing it today. Many thanks to Mrs White for leading the school council.



SEWING CLUB

The children in the after school sewing club have been busy! Please take a look at the photos to see the beautiful creations the children have made this term. Many thanks to Mrs Evans and Mrs Finn for teaching the children a very valuable skill!



WRAPAROUND SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Well done to Maeve Davis who was awarded November Wraparound "Sunshine of the Month" for being so polite.



PA NEWS

WREATH MAKING

This annual festive event was buzzing with creativity today! The Chamber Choir sang and it was just beautiful. I hope everyone that took part enjoyed the occasion. Many thanks to the PA for organising everything.



PA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle is now live! Please click on the link below to purchase a ticket (£1.10). Great prizes to be won.

<https://raffall.com/371880/enter-raffle-to-win-st-marys-pa-christmas-raffle-hosted-by-parents-association>