



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 13th December 2024

Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

HEAD OF SCHOOL



Welcome to Issue 13 of our school Newsletter!

What a week it has been!

We had two absolutely amazing Christmas plays! On Wednesday afternoon, our youngest pupils in EYFS presented their wonderful Christmas performance.

On Thursday afternoon, we were delighted to see the KS1 Christmas play. The children in both key stages made us and their families very proud with confident, beautiful speaking, dancing and singing! The engagement and enthusiasm from all the children was second to none!

Thank you very much to all the children and our amazing staff for all their hard work and dedication that has gone into these performances. We would also like to thank all the parents who supported their children by practising with them and organising lovely costumes.

PTA events

We are trying to build up our PTA so that the whole community can work together for our children and continue to improve the experiences for all our pupils.

I would like to say Thank You to Ms Walsh and Mr Fowle who have been working very hard to encourage parents to join the PTA and have been helping and supporting some of the events that have already taken place during the Autumn Term.

I would also like to thank the parents who have engaged and supported the autumn events in a variety of ways.

I would like to especially mention two of our parents, Ms Eva Reddan (Lola Y2 and Jacob Nur) as well as Ms Tiffany Stewart. Both Ms Reddan and Ms Stewart have been amazing and have given lots of time, effort, ideas and hard work to plan and organise the timetable of events. We really appreciate all their support and everything they have been doing for all our children and our school community. I am sure you will join us in saying a heartfelt Thank You to both of them.

Next Wednesday, 18th December we have another exciting PTA event, the school Christmas Fair, from 3.45pm to 5.45pm.

We still need some donations and especially volunteers on the day to help set up and then run different activities. If you can spare a bit of time, please do let Ms Herman in the office know, and she will pass on your name to Ms Walsh.

Many Thanks in advance!

Wishing you a relatively restful weekend!

With best wishes

Mrs M Tusting

Head of School

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch

We also had a **Christmas Jumper Day** yesterday and it was lovely to see excited children in a variety of Christmas jumpers and tops.



This helped to make the day of Christmas lunch even more festive.

We all enjoyed traditional Christmas menu and had fun with Christmas crackers!

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The Holy season of Advent

We are reaching the end of the second week of the Holy Season of Advent.

This coming Sunday will be the 3rd Sunday of Advent. In addition to the two purple candles on the Advent wreath we will light the pink candle, which symbolises Joy.



Within the **Catholic Social Teaching**, we are looking in depth and learning about one of the principles: **Dignity of the human person**. This is in conjunction with looking more in depth at the School Value of **Respect** this half term.

St Mary's donation to the Local Food Bank

As for the last three years, our Faith Ambassadors planned and organised the fundraising for those less fortunate than us in the local community. We had two MUFTY days, on which children were able to wear their own clothes.



In return, we asked for donations of dry and tinned/canned food for the Local Food Bank. Once again, we were amazed with the generosity of our community. We have collected 12 crates full of food.

On Thursday 12th December the Faith Ambassadors visited the Local Food Bank at the Dalgarno Trust to deliver crates upon crates of food donated by our very generous families during the last two MUFTY Fridays.

We spoke to two volunteers, Pam and Brian, who were delighted to welcome our children and speak to them about their work at the Food Bank. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful parents for making a difference to families in our community.

Playground works in progress

We have put a bid for Capital Funding from the RBKC Local Authority to improve our outside environment and develop sensory learning and playing spaces. I am delighted to share with you that the bid was accepted and a considerable amount of funding was allocated to our school for this purpose.

We have already had a new tarmac put in KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. The next stage of the works has begun this week.

This will mean some inconvenience to the playtimes and lunchtimes for 6 to 8 weeks. However, we think it will be well worth it and our children will be able to enjoy amazing, sensory playing and learning spaces very soon.

Many Thanks for your understanding and co-operation.

Mrs Tusting
Head of School

Important Parent's Information

Home time

Just a gentle reminder about home time arrangements.

EYFS: 3.15pm – Nursery Gate

KS1: 3.20pm - Brown Door (Y1), KS1 Gate (Y2)

LKS2: 3.30pm – Back Gate

UKS2: 3.30pm – KS2 Gate

We expect all parent/carers to collect their children on time. Once the gates have closed, the children who have not been collected are brought into the office. If there are exceptional circumstances which are causing a delay, please contact the office immediately.

We do not have capacity to look after any children who are not picked up after that time.

As you are aware, the office gets very busy and the children cannot be left unsupervised in the reception area as it might pose the safety risk.

Please, ensure that you have arrangements in place to pick up your children on time.

Aktiva, the company running Wrap-Around Care in the RBKC North Hub in Ark Brunel, does take one-off bookings, so please feel free to use their services in emergencies.

Please, also ensure that we have up to date written permissions for any person you might ask to pick your children up from school as we will not be able to release children into the care of anyone we do not have the permission for.

Parents Information

Uniform

Thank you to the vast majority of our pupils who wear their full school uniform. We have noticed that quite a few children do not have their ties whilst at school. Please, note that the school tie is part of our school uniform. Could you, please ensure that your child wears the tie to school every day,

Pupils should be wearing **school shoes** when they are not wearing trainers as part of their PE uniform. Quite a few pupils are wearing colourful trainers, which are **not** part of the uniform, and we ask that you kindly check with your child and make sure they wear full school uniform, which includes black shoes.

Please note that if for any reason your child is not in full school uniform or full PE kit, we expect a note from parents to explain why this is the case.

Jewellery and Expensive items

As part of our school uniform, the children are allowed to wear small studs. Any long, dangling earrings might be the cause of accidents and therefore are not allowed.

If children wear necklaces with any religious symbols, please, make sure that your child is aware that these need to be tucked under the clothing for health and safety reasons.

As you are aware, we advise that children do not bring any expensive items to school, as we **cannot take responsibility for loss or damage**. Only children in Y5 and Y6, who have permission to walk to and from school on their own, can bring phones to school. However, they have to hand them in at the gate and pick them up from their teachers at the end of the day. During school hours the phones are stored in the safe.

Pandora bracelets as well as other bracelets and necklaces or “smart” watches are **not allowed** as they can create a health and safety hazard. In addition, they are often expensive or hold sentimental value.

Additionally, as “smart” watches are connected to other devices via the Internet, they are therefore **not allowed at school for safeguarding reasons**. This is in line with government and local authority guidelines and we ask parents to help us ensure that these guidelines are followed.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, please contact the office to make an appointment with a member of Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your support with these important issues.

Attendance

Congratulations to all the pupils who achieved 100% attendance this week!

Our overall attendance is the same as last week is **91.00%**. This is extremely low and as a school community, we need to do much better. Our school target is **96.00%**.

If required we will arrange to meet with parents, to draw their attention to their children’s absence. There is a strong correlation between school attendance and pupil outcomes. Please ensure your child is at school unless they are ill.

Holiday during term time

The government policy is that holidays during term times are not permitted, therefore the school **cannot authorise** any absence due to holidays during term times. If you take your child/ren out of school for a holiday during term time, they will be referred to the Local Authority if necessary. Please note this for any plans you are making for the new academic year 2024-25. The Department for Education expects parents/carers to organise holidays outside of the school term dates. Your child/ren’s learning will suffer by taking them out of school and it may result in disruptions to the learning of others. We have already referred some families to the local authority who will issue a penalty notice.

Contacts

It is a requirement that the school has a minimum of **2 emergency telephone contact numbers** for your child. We need to be able to contact you at all times. Our admin team, endeavour to update our data systems with your details termly. This is essential for the wellbeing of your children and we need your help to ensure that you are contactable at all times. If there are any changes for 2024-25, please ensure you contact the school office at the beginning of the new academic year.

School Tie

A gentle reminder that all children in Reception to Year 6 are all expected to wear their school ties.

The St Mary's school tie gives the school its unique identity and this is something we want to preserve and promote throughout the local area.



New elasticated ties - coming soon!

in response to parent and pupil feed back, we have decided to phase out clip on ties and replace them with elasticated ties. These will be available in the new year.

Staff will be checking to ensure that all school uniform criteria is followed. Thank you for your support

Nursery and Reception School Admission - September 2025

You can collect a SIF application form for Nursery or Reception, from the school office.

If you are applying for Reception, please ensure you also complete your online application with your Local Authority by January 15th 2025.





CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Pantomime at school - Dick Whittington - Monday 16th December 2024

Our school PTA have kindly funded the Dick Whittington Pantomime to be shown in school to our children.



Christmas Concert in the Church - Tuesday 17th December 2024

Our Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday 17th December in the church at 2.00pm



Christmas Fair - Wednesday 18th December 2024

Our Christmas Fair is taking place on **Wednesday 18th December** from 3.45pm.



Key Stage 2 update

Year 3

Year 3 have been rehearsing during the afternoons for our Christmas Carol concert.

We can't wait for you to hear just how amazing all of the children are!



Year 4

Year 4 have been studying the human digestive system in Science this half term. We conducted a number of experiments such as investigating what happens to our teeth when we consume sugary food and drinks, and how does stomach acid break down food?



Our favourite experiment was to find out what happens in our mouth when we chew food. We ate some bread and discovered that the longer we chewed, the sweeter the bread became. This is thanks to the enzymes in human saliva which break down carbohydrates and turn them into sugars. Isn't the human body fascinating!

Year 5

Year 5 had an informative and interesting visit to a Synagogue this week. This ties in with our learning on Judaism in other faiths in RE.



We had a talk from the Rabbi and got to see and listen to the Torah being read.

Year 6

In Religious Education this week, Year 6 have been reflecting on the true meaning of Advent. Through scripture, prayer, and discussions, they've explored the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, preparing their hearts for the celebration of Christmas.



We're proud of their thoughtful engagement and look forward to continuing this journey together.
#Advent #RE #Hope #Peace #Joy #Love

School



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs from 8am and will cost **£4** per child, per day for children from Reception to Y6. Before your child/ren attends Breakfast Club, please ensure you book the sessions and make the required payments first.!

This provision is only available to children from Reception to Year 6.

www.schoolgateway.com

Akvida Wraparound Care

Aktiva Camps After School Club hosted at the Ark Brunel Hub!
Aktiva has created a safe, fun, and friendly environment for our children.



Club Information: Aktiva After School Club will run from the end of the school day until 6:00 PM. The children will be collected from their classes at the end of the school day and brought over to the Ark Brunel hub by walking bus by 3.40pm where they will be registered into our after-school club. There are 2 sessions available to book - Early session 3.30pm-4.30pm and a full session 3.30pm-6pm

Contact Information: Aktiva's Ark Brunel contact number: 07776657491 - only available during service (3.30pm - 6pm). For all queries regarding bookings please email **bookings@aktivacamps.com** or call our parent enquiry number on **0203 551 8909**.

Booking Aktiva Services:

Single Sessions: Book until 1 PM on the same day for After School Club. This flexibility allows parents to use our services as needed. Places are subject to availability and strict cutoffs.

Booking and Pricing: Please visit **www.aktivacamps.com** to register yourself and your child/children and select the required service.



Star of the Term

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate** - Friday 13th December 2024

Star of the Term:

EYFS - Nursery & Reception - **Both Classes**

Y1- **The Whole Class**

Y2 - **The Whole Class**

Y3 - **Aislie**

Y4 - **Mimi**

Y5 - **Layla**

Y6 - **Sienna.F**

Star Readers

Y1- **(No reader for this week)**

Y2 - **Sarah**

Y3 - **Ryan**

Y4 - **Cali**

Y5 - **Amarah**

Y6 -**Bethel**

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Week, Star Readers!

We will also be adding new dates and will share them with you soon, so please keep checking the Newsletter and the Parents' Information Board on the front gate.

Upcoming Dates

PE Days:

Please remember that children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. Please refer to our guidance on school uniform and ensure your child has the correct PE kit.

If for any reason they are not able to come in the correct kit, we require an email or phone call from home to explain the circumstances.

Tuesdays - **Years 1, 2, 3 & 5**

Wednesdays - **Years 2 & 6, Nursery and Reception**

Fridays - **Years 3, 4 & Year 6**

Monday 16th December: Pantomime at school: Dick Wittington (funded by PTA)

Monday 16th December: Christmas outfit MUFTY Day (£1 to PTA)

Tuesday 17th December: KS2 Christmas Concert in the church - 2.00pm

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Fair, organised by PTA - 3.45pm

Friday 20th December: Star of the Term Assembly

Friday 20th December: Last day of school- 1.30pn - School Closed

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term – 2024

Half Term – Monday 28th – Friday 1st November

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 4th November

Last Day of School – Friday 20th December - **1.30pm - School Closed**

Christmas Holiday – Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term - 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Monday 6th January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7th January

Last Day of School – Friday 14th February

Half Term – Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 24th February

Last Day of School – Friday 4th April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

Easter Holiday – Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April

Summer Term – 2025

First Half Term

Staff Training – Tuesday 22nd April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May

Last Day of School – Friday 23rd May

Half Term – Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Second Half Term

First Day of School – Monday 2nd June

Staff Training – Monday 30th June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22nd July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

TWITTER



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Email: info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk/>

Location: [East Row, London W10 5AW, UK](#)

Phone: 020 8969 0321



Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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