



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 20th December 2024

Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER 

Welcome to Issue 14 of our school Newsletter!

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have come to the end of a very busy and successful term and Christmas will soon be upon us. We should be very proud of what we have achieved together as a community; staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors.

We continue to develop our School Federation with its mission to bring all pupils to the fullness of life through our Catholic faith and our school values. This means that we work incredibly hard to ensure all pupils are supported to achieve their academic potential whilst being provided with opportunities to demonstrate their faith and school values in action by serving others. That is why it has been wonderful to see our children play an active role in all aspects of school life this term. Pupils have taken part in liturgies, acts of worship, fund raising and charity events, school trips, school concerts, and community and social activities.

It has also been wonderful to be able to welcome so many parents, carers, and visitors to our schools, especially in recent weeks during the Season of Advent. A particular highlight for me has been the Nativity plays and Carol concerts; watching our children perform and sing with such confidence was a real privilege. Well done to all involved! These plays/concerts really started the festivities and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. The recent Christmas fayres organised by our parent volunteers, allowed us to bring so many families and friends in our

community together. I was delighted to see such overwhelming support for this. To everyone that made this happen, thank you.

I would finally like to thank you as parents and carers for all you have done to support your child in school this term. I thank you personally for your continued support to me and I wish you and your loved ones God's blessing this Christmas and good health and happiness for 2025.

JUST A REMINDER, CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2025!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN.

Kindest regards,

With best wishes

Ms Hampton
Executive Headteacher

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The Holy season of Advent

This coming Sunday will be the fourth week of Advent.

All three purple candles as well as the pink candle will be lit on the Advent wreaths in all the churches.

The last, white candle will be lit on Christmas Day, to symbolise Jesus.



Community Engagement

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.



To that end we have been engaged in many community projects that we have mentioned in the previous Newsletter.



This week on Thursday, our **school Choir** and some of our **Faith Ambassadors** we invited to our local **Care Home, Alan Morkill House**, to meet with some of the residents and to sing carols together. The children, once again, did us proud with their thoughtfulness, kindness and beautiful manners. We received a heartfelt Thank You from the management of the Alan Morkill House for sharing this time with the residents.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert



KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

St. Mary's Families attended the beautiful Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at the church on Tuesday. All our children have participated with enthusiasm and passion.

They retold the story of the Birth of Jesus through singing, playing various musical instruments and sharing beautifully prepared Bible Readings!

The singing and instrumental performances were outstanding! Our children are so talented! We are very proud of all of them.

A special thank you to Ms. Alena, who works so hard with our school choir. Thank you also to all the wonderful KS2 staff, led by Mr Larke, who put together such an amazing KS2 Concert.

Christmas at St Mary's



Yesterday, we had a day of excitement at St Mary's. Each child received a beautifully wrapped Christmas present. Children came to the hall, sat around our Christmas tree and opened their surprise gifts. All classes had a great time.

We are incredibly grateful to Family Action Organisation for their Toy Appeal Bus, which delivered all these wonderful gifts. Huge Thank you to the 'elves' in different organisations who donated, wrapped and labelled the gifts.

A huge thank you again to the Family Action Organisation, who generously gifted all the children at St Mary's with a Christmas present.

We are truly grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Christmas Pantomime - Dick Wittington



The whole school enjoyed a festive pantomime yesterday Monday. We were treated to a performance of Dick Whittington.

There was much laughter and fun had, and plenty of audience participation!

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 92.00%**. This is very 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 feedback, 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.



EYFS and Key Stage 1 update

EYFS - Nursery and Reception

Early years have been in the full Christmas spirit the past week. Our children performed the Nativity to the whole school and their families.



We have been making gingerbread houses and shared our Christmas lunch together. Which one pupil said "this is the best day ever!" We wish you all a very Merry Christmas from all of us in Early years.

Year 1

In Year 1 the children have been making Christmas cards for their loved ones.



Merry Christmas to all of the families in Year 1 and thank you for your continued support

Year 2

At the end of last week, we carefully observed daffodil bulbs, including by looking at a bisected bulb through a magnifying glass.



We drew and labelled a scientific diagram of a bulb and then planted bulbs. We will be observing how they grow over the coming weeks and months.



On behalf of the entire St Mary's Staff, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our St Mary's families for a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



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 Term Certificate** - Friday 20th December 2024

Star of the Term:

EYFS - **Denis**

Rec) - **Cecilia**

Y1- **Noel**

Y2 - **John**

Y3 - **Vanna**

Y4 - **Makda**

Y5 - **Ana-Clara**

Y6 - **Sienna.M**

Congratulations to all the Stars of the Term!!!

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**

Term Dates 2024-2025

Term Dates 2024 – 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



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C

Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters