



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 6th December 2024

Message to parents from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER 

Welcome to Issue 12 of our school Newsletter!

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the second Sunday of Advent, it is clear that rehearsals for the up and coming carol concerts and Nativity plays are in full swing. The Faith Ambassadors from both St Mary's and St Charles attended Wednesday's Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral alongside children from other schools across the Diocese. As always, it was a joyful event with a real life donkey and goat in attendance!!!

The PTA/PFA groups are organising the Christmas fayre. St Charles' fayre takes place this afternoon from 3.20pm – 5.20pm and St Mary's is scheduled for 3.45pm – 5.30pm on Wednesday 18th December. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone involved in organising these and other fun events for our pupils, outside of the school day. Each event requires a lot of planning and preparation to ensure all runs smoothly. I would also like to thank parent/carers for donating food for the Christmas events and for their contributions to the local Food Bank. It is wonderful when the community comes together to help those in need.

The dates and times of all Carol Services and Christmas plays are listed in this newsletter. Please take the time to check them and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

With best wishes

Ms Hampton
Executive Headteacher

Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral



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

Catholic Life and Mission of the school

The Holy season of Advent

In Catholic and Christian communities around the world, the Holy Season of Advent refers to a four week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth.



It's a time to reflect on the nature of Jesus' humble birth and to join in the anticipation of when He will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

This week is the first week of Advent

We celebrated the start of Advent with the whole school Mass yesterday, on Thursday 5th December at 9.30am in Our Lady of the Holy Souls church. The Faith Ambassadors did the Readings and the Bidding Prayers, and three Y6 pupils served at Mass as Altar Servers.



As usual the behaviour and reverence of our children was excellent and, according to Sisters and the parishioners they 'lifted the church up' with their beautiful singing.

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.

Mufty Days for donation to Food Bank

The last three years, we have organised the fundraising for those less fortunate than us in the local community. Therefore, we plan to have another MUFTY day, on which children will be able to wear their own clothes again. In return, we ask for donations of dry and tinned/canned food for the Local Food Bank.

The MUFTY days have taken place on **Friday 29th November** and today **Friday 6th December**.



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 93.00%**. 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.





CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 12th December 2024

If your child has pack lunch, but you would like them to have a Christmas Lunch. Please inform Ms Herman in the school office.



This is also our **Christmas Jumper Day**, please let your child wear a Christmas Jumper on that day.

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.



EYFS and Key Stage 1 update

EYFS - Nursery and Reception

Early Years have had lots of fun creating the famous painting by Vincent Van Gogh called "Starry Night over the Rhone".

Both classes were able to look at the painting and select what colours we needed to recreate this. Our class texts have both included a river and this joint activity was a really fun way to end our week and bring both classes together.



Year 1

Year 1 have been working hard with their phonics this week. Thank you to parents who are reading with their children at home. We are beginning to see great progress! Keep it up Year 1.



Year 2

In Science this week, we have been learning about food chains. In this activity, some of the children (krill) collected post-it notes (plankton), then the silverfish were released to eat the krill, followed by the seals to eat the silverfish, followed by the orcas who ate the seals! We learned that all living things need energy to survive and they get this energy from other living things in the food chain (although plants produce energy themselves from sunlight, water and air). The arrows in the food chain show the way the energy flows.



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

Akvita 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 6th December 2024

Star of the Term:

EYFS - (Rec)-Isadora

Y1- Ollly

Y2 - Lola

Y3 - Alfie

Y4 - Sofia

Y5 - Nicolas

Y6 - Kian

Star Readers

Y1- Noel

Y2 - Asher

Y3 - Savannah

Y4 - Esey

Y5 - Nazrawi

Y6 - Yaffet

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**

Thursday 5th December: 9.30am Whole School Advent Mass

Friday 6th December: MUFTY Day (with food donations to local Food Bank)

Thursday 12th December: Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper (if your child has packed lunch, please make sure you book Christmas lunch with Ms Herman in the office)

Thursday 12th December: Christmas Jumper Day

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

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

Wednesday 18th December: Christmas Fair, organised by PTA

Christmas Plays and Concerts:

Wednesday 11th December 2.15pm: EYFS Christmas Play

Thursday 12th December 2.15pm: KS1 Christmas Play

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

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/>

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Phone: 020 8969 0321



Charles Mary

Charles is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



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