



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - Friday 29th November 2024

## Message to parents from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**



Welcome to Issue 11 of our school Newsletter!

The weather has turned really cold, however this has not stopped our pupils from learning and gaining new knowledge! The children have been working very hard on their learning. For the next three weeks, they will also be working hard across the curriculum on the theme of Advent and Christmas.

We are looking forward to children presenting their Christmas plays and concerts in their respective key stages.

Thank you to our parents for your co-operation around our school uniforms. This week most of the children have been wearing their ties and the correct shoes! The children are looking very smart and, when asked, speak proudly of being part of our St Mary's community. Thank you again for your support, parents! It is greatly appreciated.

Howe you all have a lovely, restful weekend.

With best wishes

Mrs Tusting

**Head of School**

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## Playground works to commence soon

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 will commence on 6th December.

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**

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## 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 year, Advent starts this Sunday, 1st December.

We will be celebrating the start of Advent with the whole school Mass on Thursday 5th December at 9.30am in Our Lady of the Holy Souls church. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us for this special celebration.

### 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 will take place on **Friday 29th November** and **Friday 6th December**.



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## 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 have 10 minute grace for pick up times, after which the respective gates are closed and children who have not been picked up are brought into the office.

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.

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## 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%**, which is very low. 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.

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**Thank you for choosing a school!**

**Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School** ✓  
East Row North Kensington, London, W10 5AW

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**Dear families**  
**If you have an Asda**  
**reward card please**  
**add our school in your**  
**cash pot.**  
**It costs you nothing and**  
**helps us out**  
**Thanks in advance**  
**Cash pot closes**  
**30/11/24**

### 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.



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

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## **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.

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# *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.



## Key Stage 2 update

### Year 3

Year 3 presented a wonderful assembly last week based on anti bullying week. We shared this important message that doesn't just span one week of the year but all year round.



We showed that no one should feel alone and even sang a wonderful rendition of 'lean on me' which is just what we want our friends to do!

### Year 4

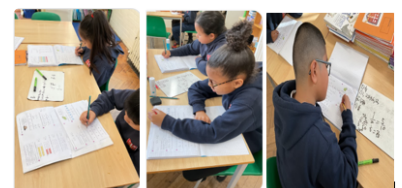
Year 4 had a fantastic time visiting the Vue Cinema in Westfield. We watched the movie 'IF', which was all about imagination and friendship.



Members of the public commented on the childrens' respectful behaviour and tidy uniforms out in public.

### Year 5

Year 5 have been hard at work this week tackling fractions in maths. We have been using fraction walls and our knowledge of multiplication and division facts to find equivalent fractions in our lessons. Well done, Year 5.



### Year 6

Year 6 experienced a wonderful and informative trip to the Houses of Parliament this week. The children were able to have a full tour and enter the chambers of the House of Lords.



The class represented the school brilliantly and were particularly taken by the architecture, paintings and sculptures which were present.

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# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.aktivacamps.com) to register yourself and your child/children and select the required service.

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### **Star of the Term**

Congratulations to all the pupils who have received **Star of the Week Certificate** - Friday 29th November 2024

#### **Star of the Term:**

EYFS - (N)-Jacob.L, (Rec)-Melaysia

Y1- Noel

Y2 - Maria

Y3 - Rhenn

Y4 - Kian

Y5 - Amy/Mohammed

Y6 - Sebastian

#### **Star Readers**

Y1- Aniyah

Y2 - Rakirah

Y3 - Vanna

Y4 - Nelly/Alby

Y5 - Kessiah

Y6 - Danny

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

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We would like to share some important dates for the second half term with you. We will also be adding some more 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** (if your child has packed lunch, please make sure you book Christmas lunch with Ms Herman in the office)

**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**

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## Term Dates 2024-2025

## Term Dates 2024 – 2025

### Autumn Term – 2024

**Half Term** – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Last Day of School – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**Christmas Holiday** – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

### Spring Term - 2025

#### **First Half Term**

Staff Training – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Last Day of School – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Last Day of School – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**Easter Holiday** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### Summer Term – 2025

#### **First Half Term**

Staff Training – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – **School Closed**

First Day of School – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Last Day of School – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**Half Term** – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Second Half Term**

First Day of School – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Staff Training – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – **School Closed**

Last Day of School – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - **1.30pm - School Closed**

**FACEBOOK**

**INSTAGRAM**

**TWITTER**



### St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Email: [info@st-marys.rbkc.sch.uk](mailto: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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