

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Whole School Newsletter Friday 29th November 2024

Dear families,

We are definitely beginning to feel a Christmas buzz in the air. Rehearsals are well underway for our EYFS/Key Stage 1 Nativity and Key Stage 2 Carol Service. We can imagine you have been hearing the songs on repeat at home! We want to thank you in advance for supporting your child with learning lines and songs for these two events. We can't wait for you to see the effort that they have put into these.

When the children return to school on Monday, they will discover the Christmas elves, a.k.a, the St Mary's staff, have been busy decorating the classrooms and corridors. The "Elf on the bookshelf" will also be making a reappearance, delivering high quality Christmas books to each classroom. Thank you Mrs Hadley for always finding ways to develop the children's love for reading.

Whilst Christmas is a magical time, we know that the increase of noise, colour and change in routine can make some children feel dysregulated. If you think your child might struggle with any of this, please speak to your class teacher for ways we can help support them.

December is always an exceptionally busy month, so here is a reminder of dates for your diary. Any new dates that weren't included in the last newsletter, have been written in red.

Key dates:

Monday 2nd December - Santa Fun Run (see below)

Friday 6th December - Mufti Day (please bring in cakes - no nuts)

Saturday 7th December (12-3pm) - School Fair

Tuesday 10th December (10am) - Key Stage One and EYFS nativity

Wednesday 11th December (2pm) - Key Stage One and EYFS nativity

Wednesday 11th December - Year 5 walk around the local area

Thursday 12th December - Christmas jumper day (To be worn with school uniform)

Thursday 12th December (6pm) - Key Stage Two Carol Concert

Friday 13th December (2pm) - Key Stage Two Carol Concert

Monday 16th December - Secret Santa (see below)

Monday 16th December - Year 5 trip to the Rose Theatre

Tuesday 17th December - Young Voices choir/Year 6 singing at St Mary's Centre

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th December - Whole school book look after school

Thursday 19th December (EYFS/KS1 - 4:45-5:45, KS2 - 6:00-7:30) - School disco
(more information to follow)

Thursday 19th December - Year 3 trip to Yorda Adventures

Thursday 19th December - Year 6 trip to the Rose Theatre

Ticketing information for the EYFS/KS1 Nativity is now live on Weduc in the payment section. Please note there is no payment required, but you do need to book tickets so that we can manage numbers for each performance.

A message from our wonderful PTA



As you will be aware, next Saturday (7th Dec) is our Christmas fair. If anyone is available straight after school on Friday 6th, we would really appreciate help setting up for the fair. If you are not available then, but could come in earlier on Saturday morning, we will be at school setting up from 9:30am.

If you haven't already signed up to help on a stall, but are free to do so, please sign up by speaking to your class rep.



Monday 2nd December is the Santa Fun Run. Please send your child into school wearing their PE kits so that they are able to take part in the walking/running. They may also wear a Christmas accessory, although please note, this is not our Christmas Jumper Day. The PTA will provide the children with Santa hats. In case it is muddy, you might want your child to bring in additional footwear to change into after they have completed the run. You will find the full poster about the Fun Run at the bottom of this newsletter. A prize will be awarded to the class who raises the most money.



The PTA would like to invite your child to participate in this year's Secret Santa. This is an optional event - whilst it is a lot of fun, please do not feel any pressure if it is not something you are able to do. You can find out more information and sign up by clicking on the link below.

Please book before Friday 6th December.

[Secret Santa Form](#)



Thank you to all of you who have been busy buying and selling raffle tickets. There are lots of amazing prizes to be won. We still have lots more books of tickets in the school office, so it is not too late to grab some if you would like to start selling now.

Easy fundraising



St Mary's is signed up to the easyfundraising site. Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate a part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra, the cost is covered by the brand. Brands are willing to pay a commission because when you shop through easyfundraising, they can see you were "sent" through their app/website. When you make a purchase, the commission is

generated into a donation - magic! So far, the St Mary's PTA has raised £572.63. To sign up to support us, please click on the following link.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarysfandf/>

What the PTA have funded this term



Whole school pantomime - £500
School SPARK book awards - £260
Yr1-Yr4 Maths books - £1200
Class funds - £100 Autumn term

Would you like to join the PTA?



The PTA would love to have new members - there is no such thing as too many people. If you are interested, even in a small capacity, please speak to your class rep and they can add you to the whatsapp group. You will not be asked to commit to anything you don't feel you have the capacity for.

Chessington Community Fridge and Pantry

Christmas can be a financially difficult time for many families. If you, or anyone you know, finds themselves in need of some extra food during the festive season (or at any time), please don't hesitate to go to the Chessington Community Fridge at St Mary's Centre. They are open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10am-1pm. The amazing volunteers will help you choose from a range of donations. As well as the donated food in the pantry, they have a wide selection of surplus fresh food from local supermarkets. This food is available to anyone, not just those in need. You can follow their page on facebook by searching for Chessington Community Fridge and Pantry.



Ideas for Christmas



At St Mary's, we love reading! If you are wanting to give your child a book this Christmas, we recommend getting ideas from <https://www.booksfortopics.com/>. This website helpfully divides recommended titles into different year groups so that you can find books best suited to your child. There are also some wonderful offers at this time of year at <https://www.books2door.com/>.

Tournaments



Our children have continued to shine in sporting competitions. Last week, the Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball team became borough champions! The organisers of the competition commented on the amazing skill and teamwork displayed by our children. Even if they had not come home with gold, the attributes they showed whilst competing have made us incredibly proud. And to make things even more exciting, we even made it into the AFC (Achieving for Children) newsletter:

Active Kingston - Kingston school sports partnership update

On Tuesday we held our first ever Y5 and 6 borough dodgeball competition. It was fantastic to see so many pupils in attendance and they all brought such great energy to the event. Well done to St Mary's Chessington who won all their games and were crowned champions. Congratulations also to Castle Hill primary and Ellingham School on picking up the silver & bronze medals.

Thanks again to the wonderful Mr Redmond for allowing our children to have these opportunities.

Year 4 Assembly

We wanted to say a huge well done to Year 4 for completing their spectacular Roman assembly last week. They worked very hard, with Miss Reeves, to learn their lines and songs. The costumes were fantastic - so thank you for all of your efforts with these. The children loved performing to their families and the rest of the school.



The Christmas Journey

The Christmas Journey is an event hosted each year by Insight, held at the King's Centre. They invite children in Year 2 from across the borough to come and find out more about the Christmas story. The Nativity is brought to life through costumes, actors and fun activities. Hedgehog Class had a wonderful time finding out what the different parts of the story represent. Thank you to all of the parents who helped at this event. We appreciate you giving up your time.



Author visit

The children really enjoyed meeting Mrs P on Monday. She took some time sharing her story with each of the classes. To the families who purchased her book, Jessie and Jojo, your money will be donated to the NSPCC charity. What a wonderful day, supporting an excellent cause.



Advent

Sunday 1st December marks the beginning of the Advent period when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas. The next few weeks at school will see staff and children learning about the significance of this time of year. Here are two different online advent calendars that you can use at home to help in the countdown to Christmas.

Guildford Diocese Calendar

<https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=1uiwq8a1ta0c7dn76sridohrumzys9yd>



Barnardos Wellbeing Calendar

<https://www.educators-barnardos.org.uk/resources/b-wellbeing-advent-calendar>



Well done



Finally, we would like to say a huge well done to our kitchen staff, who have once again been recognised for their fantastic health, hygiene and allergen management. We are very fortunate to have such a capable and committed team.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support. We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards, The St Mary's Team



PRESENTS



The Sponsored

Santa **FUN RUN**

Monday 2nd December

Around the School Grounds

Bring your Christmas Hats and Jumpers

Open to all
years, including
Reception.

Help your child raise £20.24
which will go towards
learning resources.

Sponsorship Forms
will be handed
to each child.