

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Whole School Newsletter Friday 13th December 2024

Dear families,

We can't believe that this is the last newsletter of 2024! The Christmas term is always extremely busy, and as a result, it flies by. But as we look back and reflect on the year, we can see it has been full of so much fun and learning. From Science and Maths weeks, to trips and visitors, winning awards and taking part in competitions - there is never a dull moment at St Mary's!

We couldn't be more proud of our children who performed brilliantly in their Nativity and Carol performances this week. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to watch them and feel full of Christmas cheer as a result. We have included pictures of these events below.

Please make sure you are aware of the upcoming events. Any new dates have been highlighted in red.

### Key dates:

**Monday 16th December** - Secret Santa

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

**Monday 16th December** - deadline for Christmas spoon competition (more info below)

**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

**Thursday 19th December** - Year 3 trip to Yorda Adventures

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

**Monday 6th January** - INSET DAY

**Tuesday 7th January** - Children return to school

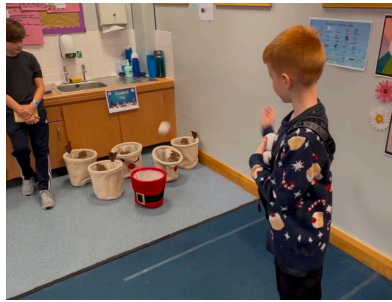
### Message from our wonderful PTA

The PTA would like to say a huge thank you for an amazing first four months of raising money. As a token of our appreciation - the PTA have decided that this year's PTA Christmas Disco will be **a free event**. All we ask is you wear your best Christmas outfit. You will have received more information about the school disco on a separate Weduc.

### Our Christmas Fair

As a school, we wanted to say a huge thank you to our PTA who hosted a magnificent Christmas Fair last Saturday. It may have been wet and windy outside, but inside the building there was a buzz of laughter and fun. From hot dogs and cake stalls, to prizes and grottos, there was something there for everyone. If you helped on a stall, set up,

stayed behind to clear up or donated something in the lead up, thank you very much for doing your part to ensure the fair could happen. We raised an incredible £2982 which will make a real difference in providing resources for your children. Finally, we would like to thank all of the companies who kindly donated and supported our raffle. At this time of year especially, their generosity is greatly appreciated.



## EYFS and Key Stage One Nativity

As mentioned above, this week, our Key Stage One and EYFS superstars took to the stage to perform in their Nativity Play - A Bundle of Joy. All of the children in this production are between the ages of 4-7, but you would never have known. They said their lines and sang their songs with confidence and enthusiasm. There wasn't a dry eye in the house - well done.





## Key Stage Two Carol Concert

We are always so impressed with how sensibly our Key Stage Two children perform in their Carol Concert. Whether you come from a Christian family, follow a different religion, or have no faith at all, joining together to think about love, joy and hope is always a very special time. We wanted to say a special well done to all of the children who did a reading or prayer at the service.



## Santa Fun Run

Our children had a wonderful time at the Santa Fun Run last week. Not only did they enjoy themselves and get some exercise, they managed to raise an astonishing £1628 for our school. This is a fantastic achievement! The PTA have agreed that these funds will be used to buy the school some new sports equipment and new sports kits. These kits are for the children to wear when they represent our school at tournaments. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise this event.



## Christmas spoon competition



Earlier in the week, your child should have come home with a spoon. Your child is being asked to decorate the spoon as Christmassy as they can, and bring it back to school by **Monday 16th December**. This is an optional activity, so please do not feel any pressure to complete this if you don't have time. There will be a prize for the best decorated spoon in each Key Stage. Please note, we really want the children to decorate the spoons themselves, even if this means they don't look perfect.

## **Christmas cards**

One of the wonderful things our children have done during this festive period, is create Christmas cards for those in the local community who might not receive any. Earlier in the term, RBKares reached out to us and asked us to make cards for staff and residents in local care homes. It is important to us to instill our school value of kindness in whatever way we can. We are sure that these cards will bring a lot of joy to those who receive them.



## **Surbiton Rotary Club Santa**



In the lead up to Christmas, Surbiton Rotary Club hosts a very special visitor on the streets of Chessington and the surrounding areas. His festive sleigh and fun music light up the roads for 14 days. As your children wave Santa along his way, they ask for donations from those who feel able to do so. You can find out more about his route and which days he is visiting by clicking on the link below. Please be aware that adverse weather and other delays may alter the route.

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PglD=900526&ClubID=891>

## **Kingston Nutcracker Trail**



In case any of you are interested, there is a “trail” around Kingston this Christmas. The following information is taken from the Kingston Upon Thames information site....

In the heart of Kingston, a magical tale unfolds as the town is besieged by the King Rat, threatening to cast darkness over the festive season. But fear not, for a band of brave Nutcrackers emerges to protect the town and restore the magic of Christmas. Free the Nutcrackers by uncovering their true names and embark on a quest to defeat the King Rat and save the Christmas spirit.

Simply grab a trail map from Waterstones, The Rose Theatre or Cass Art, or using the link below, then set off on your journey. Find the 15 Nutcrackers marked on the map with a Nutcracker statue. (\*Clue – you might have to venture inside Bentall Centre, All Saints Church and Rotunda to find them). As you find each one, write its name on the Trail Sheet (back page). Once you’ve found all 15 Nutcrackers, fill in your contact details on the Trail Sheet (back page). Show your completed Trail Sheet to Waterstones (located in the Bentall Centre) to receive a limited-edition Christmas tree decoration (available only to the first 300 participants). You could also win a Christmas Hamper. To enter the draw for the hamper, carefully remove the completed Trail Sheet. Post it in Santa’s postbox located in the Ancient Market Place (marked on the map). Trail Sheets must be posted by 2nd January 2024. The winner will be contacted on 7th



January 2024 via email (or phone if necessary). Please ensure your name, phone number, email, and address are clearly written on the Trail Sheet.

Here is the link for the trail sheet:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/119ZC4nwEZTLFoP4AfZ1dvADLaNJT\\_Zjq/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/119ZC4nwEZTLFoP4AfZ1dvADLaNJT_Zjq/view)

### Winter Wellbeing



If you or anyone else you know finds the Festive Season overwhelming, Beacon House have published a brilliant collection of resources specially designed to support regulation, connection and rest during December. Take a look here:

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

### Christmas services at St Mary's Church



**Sunday 22nd December** – 6.00pm Carols by Torchlight in church – followed by mince pies and mulled wine!

**Tuesday 24th December** – 4.00pm Crib Service in church. ***Children are invited to arrive dressed as a nativity character!***

**Tuesday 24th December** – 11.30pm Midnight Mass. Join us for the first mass of Christmas.

**Wednesday 25th December** – 10.00am Parish Mass.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and partnership in 2024. From all of us at St Mary's, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Best wishes,  
The St Mary's team

Wishing  
YOU A  
Merry  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and a  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

