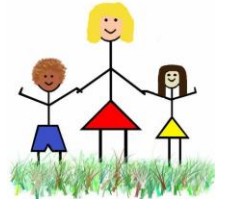




**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC FEDERATION,
CARSHALTON NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2017**



Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in the Nursery & Infants' School is Mrs M Quinn and in the Junior School is Mrs. G Owens, Deputy Safeguarding Officer for both schools is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. T. Richmond. The schools have safeguarding & protection policies which can be viewed at the school office.

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parent/ Carers,

We are delighted with the success of the many celebrations enjoyed through our Christmas season and the tremendous support from our families.

Huge gratitude goes to the staff and the many parents who have helped to enable these activities and to those who have been integral to raising funds for the schools as well as for charity.

We are most proud of our community working together. Many, many thanks to you all.

As the term closes we are sad to say farewell to Mrs Frost Lutman and thank her for her contributions and wish Mrs Aguirre-Alonso, Lunchtime Supervisor at the juniors good luck as she starts her maternity leave. Mrs Dias will be finishing her role as Lunchtime Supervisor at the infant school to begin a new role as School Secretary based at the juniors from January.

We have recently welcomed Miss Said as Teaching Assistant at the infant school .

Thank you all for your very generous donations for the various collections.

Year 3 Nativity Collection for Catholic Children's Society Westminster and the retiring collection at the Music Night £243.60p

Teachers Gifts - donations to CAFOD £273.00

Christmas Messages for CAFOD and the money from the bread sale at Harvest £38.95p

Music Night donations for mulled wine and mince pies for CAFOD £50.08

Reverse Advent Calendar - over 40 carrier bags of food collected for St Philomena's food bank

Donations for the Chaplaincy gift bags being distributed among the four parishes, where the Chaplaincy team made 80 gift bags to donate to those who may not receive much at Christmas and those who do so much in the parishes.

On behalf of all the staff, we wish to thank you all for your gifts and good wishes over this period and wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and many blessings for 2018

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Nursery & Infant School

On Wednesday 22nd November children and staff joined all faiths around the world to come together to make a Stand for Faith and Freedom on Red Wednesday by wearing an item of red clothing.



As we approach the end of the season of Advent, we have been preparing our hearts and minds for Christ's coming by taking part in the Advent Liturgies, lighting the Advent Wreath, looking at the crib and taking part in Nativity plays and Carol Concerts. Throughout the season we have listened to the Christmas Story and within our RE lessons have learned to think about others at this time. Thank you for your generosity in supporting St Raphael's and The

Catholic Children's Society with the collections after our services.



Junior School

We hope you enjoyed having the **travelling crib** in your home for the evening during Advent. Thank you for sharing this special way of preparing for Christmas, for your contributions to the book of prayers and for looking after them so that they can be passed on to the next family.



We have had a **Reverse Advent Calendar** in School this year, and have been staggered by the generosity of our School community. Over 40 bags of food have been collected. Thank you. Christmas will be more special for those families who receive your gifts from the

Food Bank at St Philomena's. If you would like, in complete confidence, to receive food, please contact Deacon Errol - foodbank@stphils.org.uk or equagraine@stphils.org.uk. Christmas is a time for giving, and we need to thank you again. We were able to make over **80 gift bags** from your kind donations to the chaplaincy team. Notebooks, pens and mints may not seem much, but with a tea bag and the message to 'have a cuppa' with us, these gifts will go to those in our parishes who may not receive any other gifts, or who do so much for us with very little thanks.

On 19th December members of the Liturgy Group were very pleased to be able to sing for those participating in the Vintage Lunch at Holy Cross Church. The children sang beautifully and were delighted to be able to share their singing with our parish community.



Advent prayers have been shared in class and in school assemblies and liturgies. In addition, pupils have chosen to join the chaplain at lunchtime for prayers. Parents too have come to our lovely chapel for Advent prayers. Our **Advent Mass** was celebrated by Fr Patrick from St Margaret's parish, Carshalton

Beeches. He was particularly impressed by the singing and behaviour of the children. He reminded us that we give gifts at Christmas to show our love - like God did when He gave us His son. Perhaps your child has told you the story Fr Patrick shared about the man he met outside the cathedral in Nigeria?

We hope that in January the **stained glass window design** created by the children will go onto the chapel door at the junior school. School Council helped select the winning design, which combines elements from four children's pictures. We will let you know more very soon!



Table Talk

Has a suggested topic of conversation for your family to discuss at a meal time together. Some of these topics might take even longer. Topic for this week - **What is the best thing about being you?**

Just a reminder, that we have a Prayer Intention Book in the Reception area of each school. Please feel free to write your intentions in as you wish. Thank you to those who have added to it. Please take the time to read it when visiting the school.

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

We have had a very busy half term in Ladybirds class, exploring and learning about how wonderful winter is. We wrapped up warm for our winter walk and discovered an old, lonely bear. The children decided that we should bring him back to our warm classroom. There were lots of ideas about what we could do to take care of him and the children loved dressing him up in his new cosy clothes. The cold weather meant that we also had a visit from Jack Frost! He had been so busy making everything icy that he left one of his hands behind! The children were very excited to touch the hand and had lots of great words to describe what his hand looked and felt like. The children have been very busy preparing for the Christmas festivities. We loved performing our Christmas play 'The Nativity' and back in class we have been making Christmas cards, ornaments and gifts. Santa's Workshop has also been very popular with the children. They have loved playing the roles of Santa and his elves, building the toys and delivering all the presents.



News from Reception

What a busy and exciting month we have had, the children worked so hard to perform a spectacular Nativity for their families. We were so very proud of them all. We wrote letters to Santa and walked to the local post box to send them. We couldn't believe it when the Elves delivered a reply! We had such fun learning about Space and the Arctic through our topic 'Can we explore it?' and are looking forward to going on the 'St Mary's express' this week as we enjoyed the story 'The Polar Express' so much. We are very excited to start our new topic 'Dinosaurs' in the spring term. We are sure it will be dinotastic. Thank you for the continued support we receive from all of our families, we wish you a fun and restful Christmas.



News from Year 1



What a busy term in Year 1. We enjoyed our topic "Bright Lights, Big City", learning all about our capital city, from the famous buildings and landmarks to the vehicles and means of transport seen in London. We were very proud of all the children for their fantastic performance of "A Miracle in Town". We would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting us this year; coming to our liturgies and RE topic service. A special thank you to Mr Malik for bringing his taxi into school, the children all enjoyed sitting in the taxi and learning about being a London taxi driver. We would like to wish you all a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

News from Year 2



Our topic celebration of medieval day was a huge success! Children loved dressing up in their different outfit choices. On the day the children each made a shield after learning about the meaning behind the colours and animals. They also learned some medieval dancing and how to write their name in a calligraphy style. Thank you to the parents for supporting us and for providing the food for the banquet. We all had a feast!

Star of the week - week ending 15th December Reindeer Class - Joshua D'Costa, Giraffe Class - Jack Watkins, Cheetah Class - Emelie Winter, Meerkat Class - Isla McFarlane, Horse Class - Elorm Fumey, Owl Class - Nina Clooke

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

This has been an incredibly busy term for year 3. We have written and put together the Nativity production for 2017. The children wrote each scene of the nativity and thought of a new and exciting theme to surround the traditional telling of the nativity. The performances were incredible and the children should be very proud of the performances that they produced. We have not stopped receiving congratulations and rave reviews from children and adults who saw the performances. We as staff are certainly proud of this talented bunch!

Speaking of talent, Year 3 has also taken part in their first 'St Mary's got Talent'. Well done to all those brave children who auditioned and performed.

On Tuesday 28th November, Father Paul led the Penitential Service for Year 3. It was a beautiful occasion, made special by all those who attended and a great way to mark the start of Advent.



Alongside our preparations for Christmas the children have learnt about different types of rocks in science, studied the human and physical features of Carshalton in geography and have studied shade of colour while looking at the artwork of Salvador Dali. The children have also looked in greater detail at stories from the bible and have created Jesse Trees that are displayed in class for the children to read and enjoy.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2018!!

News from Year 4

Our learning has certainly taken us on our travels in Year 4 over the past six weeks! Not only have we 'hopped' over to Sicily to compare its landscape to ours, but we also got to become world traders when Thames Explorers visited for the day.



Using large scale maps, the children had great fun working out the best shipping routes to bring the goods back home.



Meanwhile, closer to home, every class used map-reading skills in PE's



Outdoor Adventures to orientate their way around the school grounds to find plotted clues (not always in the right order). During our DT day, children got to enjoy the taste of the Mediterranean when they made a selection of delicious pasta and cous-cous salads. They also created packaging and adverts for them to tempt family members to have a try! Our Science learning all about Sound has been helped along by Year 4's weekly Music lessons, playing the violin and cello. They got a chance to show off their growing confidence in playing these instruments at the Christmas concert - Bravo Year 4! We have enjoyed preparing for the celebration of Christmas in our RE topic by making and exploring Advent symbols. We wish you all a joyful and peaceful time as you celebrate with your families.

News from Year 5

As we draw to the end of the Autumn term, the children have worked hard and had a successful half term. In English we have enjoyed studying Macbeth and the children have had the opportunity to enjoy role play. Some children have even performed it to the year group and their enthusiasm has been a delight to see. In Maths, we have been concentrating on multiplication and division. The children have been embracing maths mastery; learning how to explain answers in greater depth and becoming more fluent in their knowledge. Following the Learning Dome (which was based on space) we began our science topic, exploring the planets, Earth and moon. We chose to do science across the curriculum and have therefore enjoyed tasks in Art, Maths and English. The children have been very enthusiastic! Our topic in PE has been Dance which the children have certainly enjoyed! Finally, in RE we have looked at life choices and have been preparing for Christmas.

News from Year 6

The theme of our learning in the second half of Autumn term has definitely been Christmas in Year 6. Through our Religion topic of Expectations, we have been looking at how our beliefs affect our expectations of ourselves and others during Advent and the importance of Advent to Catholics. In DT we got ourselves in the festive mood early and examined what makes a great Christmas Pudding. After some interesting taste testing, the children put their cooking skills to the test and baked their own puddings to take home and share (with much less mess than usual!).

Our Christmas journey continued in Literacy where the year 6 students, with their ever-improving writing skills, planned, wrote and illustrated some amazing Christmas stories for their Year 3 buddies. It was great seeing the Year 6 and Year 3 children spend time reading their stories together. To finish up the term, Year 6 helped the rest of the school get into the festive spirit by organising and setting up the Christmas Fayre. The children spent a lot of time planning and setting up their stalls and it looked as though everyone



left with an armful of sweets and bottles (and some with a pie face). Thank you again to all the parents and helpers who contributed their time to setting up all the hampers, bags and other stalls. From Year 6, we wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas period and Happy New Year!

Junior Sports

The cold weather and dark evenings haven't put off our St.Mary's sportsmen and women! Swimming is finished now for this term and will continue again in January.

St. Mary's Netballers have had a promising start to their season with 2 out of 5 wins and some very promising netball talent!

Our football team have had one fixture this term but have many more to come in the spring term as the evenings get lighter and pitches defrost!

We're aiming to get the whole school competing in one intra-school tournament (where all children compete against other children from their own school), once a term. Our first one (postponed until January because of adverse weather) will be a Boccia tournament.

And finally, **an important reminder please.** Quite a few children have plimsoll shoes in their PE Kit. These are not on the school uniform policy or the PE policy and haven't been for a few years as we don't believe that they offer the right support to children's feet when taking part in physical activity or provide enough grip on all surfaces. If your child has these in their PE kit please bear in mind, when they have outgrown them and you are purchasing their next pair of PE shoes, that **we require white or black sports trainers.** Your cooperation and understanding on this matter is much appreciated.

Music

Christmas Music Night

Congratulations to all those who performed in Wider Opportunities, Choir, Handbells, Liturgy group and poem readers for making our Christmas Celebration such a success. This night couldn't happen without the expertise of Miss McDade, Mrs McGregor, Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Norbury. We thank them for all their hard work as well as all the staff. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a lovely New Year.

Choir

Well done to the choir members that performed at the Carshalton Village Christmas Festival on Saturday 2nd December. We had our first joint Junior and Infant choirs performing with Santa on stage with the Christmas lights being turned on carolling with 'Away in a Manger', 'Santa Claus is coming to Town' and many more.



Thank you to the choir members in Year 6 who also performed at Morrisons in Sutton raising money for 'Save the Children'. The children got into the Christmas spirit and the shoppers in Morrisons sang along as well!

E-Safety

Google tip - Using Google Drive and Google Classroom remember to use Google Chrome.

Have you got Google Classroom as

an App on your phone? Just go to the App store and download Google Classroom to see what is happening in your child's class.

Here are some great E-Safety links -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.internetmatters.org/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

PSHE
Association

PSHE

In PSHE at the junior school this term all year groups have been learning about healthy lifestyles. The children have focused on making the correct choices and the choices that can affect our wellbeing. We started off this term with taking part in Anti Bullying Week on 13th - 17th November 2017. The key theme for schools up and down the country was 'All Different and all equal'.

We were treated to two assemblies including one by 4 Poplar and a British Bake off assembly with Mrs Owens and Miss Mayanja! A number of children were selected to participate in creating a St Mary's junior cake that included all the key ingredients. The main message was that there are many unique ingredients that combine to create a school community where everybody feels valued and included and is able to be themselves,

All Different

All Equal

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

without fear of bullying.

We were fortunate to receive a visit from members of our local community. PC Towler and PC Syed work in the local community and delivered talks to each year group. The children were able to explore the key rules of Road Safety whilst talking about ways of keeping safe and the need for safety rules in the community when travelling by roads.

Lastly, as part of our teaching on British values we have been working with other schools in our local community to collect items for a local Food bank at St. Philomena's School. This has formed part of our reverse Advent Calendar.

Next term we will be taking part in E Safety week which will run in schools throughout the UK from 5th February - 9th February 2018.



Junior Travel Advisors/ School Travel Plan

There is great news to celebrate this term as St Mary's Junior school has received confirmation of the silver mark for our school travel plan. We have received a signed certificate and badge! Thank you to all the applications for Junior Travel advisors from various year groups. The new advisors will be announced next term.

All classes in the school have begun to collect data for the WOW (Walk on Wednesday) initiative. It is a helpful way of collecting data from each class in order to determine how many children are walking to school or parking in a 1 mile radius and walking into the school grounds. We hope the number of people using active travel can increase even more this year as well as scooter usage.



At the Junior school we had a successful Road Safety Week, with children taking part in Road Safety workshops delivered by two local police officers. All classes looked at different aspects of road safety, revised rules of the road and travelling by foot and took home a 'Highway Code for Young Users'. Thank you for continually choosing active and sustainable methods of travel to get to school.

St Mary's Awards Autumn 2

3 Mulberry - Charlie Jefferson

3 Hawthorn - Maya Dul 3 Willow - Ann-Marii Mante

4 Ash - Finley Shannon

4 Poplar -Liam Burley 4 Rowan - Isabella Hersey

5 Birch - Tyler Harvey
Chestnut - Frank Augustyn

5 Elm - Luke Mackay 5 Sycamore - Catarina Pires6
6 Oak - Harry Neal

Chess Awards

Gold - Thomas Kvam (48 points)

Silver - Harry Farrant (35 points)

Bronze - Jose Aceves (34 points)

Well done to all!



NURSERY & INFANTS' SCHOOL



JUNIOR SCHOOL

INSET DAY 3	Wed 3 Jan	INSET DAY 3
SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM	Thur 4 Jan	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
	Fri 5 Jan	Swimming 4R, 6O & 6C
	Fri 12 Jan	Swimming 4R, 6O & 6C
	Tue 16 Jan	Creativity Day - Whole School
	Fri 19 Jan	Swimming 4R, 6O & 6C
Year 1 Phonics Meeting 2.30pm	Mon 22 Jan	
Year 2 SATS Meeting 2.30pm	Wed 24 Jan	
	Thur 25 Jan	Year 3 First Aid training
	Fri 26 Jan	Swimming 4R, 6O & 6C
Sutton Schools Work assembly - children only	Mon 29 Jan	
	Wed 31 Jan	Holocaust Memorial Year 6. Parents welcome 9am.
	Fri 2 Feb	Swimming 4R, 6O & 6C
	Mon 5 Feb	Year 6 Height & Weight Measurement
	Tue 6 Feb	Year 6 Height & Weight Measurement
Parent Forum Meeting 9am Infant School	Wed 7 Feb	Parent Forum Meeting 9am Infant School
SCHOOL FINISHES	Fri 9 Feb	Swimming 4A, 4P & Mixed group of year 6 SCHOOL FINISHES
SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM	Mon 19 Feb	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
	Tue 20 Feb	PAR meetings for parents and children by appointment 5pm to 8pm
PAR meetings for parents and children by appointment 5pm to 8pm	Wed 21 Feb	
SCHOOL CLOSSES 2PM	Thur 22 Feb	SCHOOL CLOSSES 2PM
PAR meetings for parents and children by appointment 2.20PM TO 5.30PM		PAR meetings for parents and children by appointment 2.20PM TO 5.30PM
	Fri 23 Feb	Swimming 4A, 4P & Mixed group of year 6
	Fri 2 Mar	Swimming 4A, 4P & Mixed group of year 6
	Fri 9 Mar	Swimming 4A, 4P & Mixed group of year 6
	Fri 16 Mar	Swimming 4A, 4P & Mixed group of year 6
Full Governing Body Meeting Junior School 7pm	Tue 20 Mar	Full Governing Body Meeting Junior School 7pm
NURSERY FINISHES	Wed 28 Mar	Easter Reflection led by Year 5 11am for Years 3 & 5 1.30pm for year 4 and Parents
SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM	Thur 29 Mar	SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM
INSET DAY 4	Mon 16 Apr	INSET DAY 4
SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM	Tue 17 Apr	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
	Fri 20 Apr	Swimming 3M, 3W & 3H
	Wed 25 Apr	Creativity Day - Whole School
	Fri 27 Apr	Swimming 3M, 3W & 3H
	Tue 1 May	Crowning of Mary 9am children only

Parent Forum Meeting 9am Junior School	Thur 3 May	Parent Forum Meeting 9am Junior School
	Fri 4 May	Swimming 3M, 3W & 3H
BANK HOLIDAY	Fri 7 May	BANK HOLIDAY
	Fri 11 May	Swimming 3M, 3W & 3H
	Mon 14 May	SATS WEEK
	Fri 18 May	Swimming 4A, 4P & 4R
	Fri 25 May	Swimming 4A, 4P & 4R
SCHOOL FINISHES		SCHOOL FINISHES
SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM	Mon 4 June	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
	Fri 8 June	Swimming 4A, 4P & 4R
	Fri 15 June	Swimming 5B, 5S & 5E
	Sat 16 June	School Journey for Year 6
	Thur 21 June	New Year 3 2018 Intake Parents meeting 7pm
	Fri 22 June	Swimming 5B, 5S & 5E
New Reception 2018 Intake Parents Meeting 2pm	Tue 26 Jun	
New Nursery 2018 Intake Parents Meeting 9.30am	Wed 27 Jun	
	Fri 29 June	Year 5 Under Canvas event
	Tue 3 Jul	Year 5 Coffee morning 9.30am to 10.30am to discuss any concerns you have about transfer to high school. This is not a presentation but a chance to ask questions.
	Wed 4 Jul	Year 5 Coffee afternoon 2pm to 3pm to discuss any concerns you have about transfer to high school. This is not a presentation but a chance to ask questions.
Full Governing Body Meeting Infant School 7pm	Tue 10 Jul	Full Governing Body Meeting Infant School 7pm
Year 2 attending year 6 Production at the Junior School	Tue 17 Jul	Year 6 Production 1.30pm & 7pm. All welcome.
NURSERY FINISHES	Thur 19 July	Final Assembly - children only
	Fri 20 Jul	Leavers Mass 11am. Year 6 Parents welcome
SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM		SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM
INSET DAY 5	Mon 23 Jul	INSET DAY 5