



NEWSLETTER December 2018

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER- 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs. G Owens and **Nursery & Infant School:** Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputy: Mrs. S Hulme **Safeguarding Governor:** Mr T Richmond

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 Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy autumn term, it is a time to take the opportunity to reflect on our many blessings.

We have a wonderful active community joining to support the welfare of our children that reiterates the African values of "it taking a village to raise a child". We have the physical support and empathy whilst also being fortunate to have sufficient finances to be able to provide the highest quality of learning provision. Thank you for being part of this.

We have a Christian community to be proud of that is generous in supporting the needy ;those who live close to us, those in the wider circle of UK and indeed those living in far off lands. You should be very proud of these times and continue to include the children in conversations that highlights how blessed we are and how caring we need to be.

We have had 10 shows by the children over the Infants and Juniors, who have all worked so hard and made us so proud of their performances. Well done!

We are sorry to say farewell to Mrs. Reed who has been working in the school office at the infant school covering for Ms. Sofroniou whilst on maternity leave. Thank you Mrs. Reed for supporting the school during this period and for the care given to the children. Best wishes for the future.

**Wishing you all a very happy
and holy Christmas and
peaceful 2019**

Huge thanks goes to our parents and extended families who have worked tirelessly this term in supporting the school in a wide variety of ways.

Another huge thank you must go to staff and governors who are fully committed to our Catholic Community and who dedicate their time to the benefit of our children. We also thank our parish priests who visit each school showing their support in person and in spirit.

On behalf of all the staff - we would like to thank you for the most generous gifts and good wishes offered over this Christmas period. We really appreciate your ongoing support.

May God keep us in his heart as we move towards the New Year too.

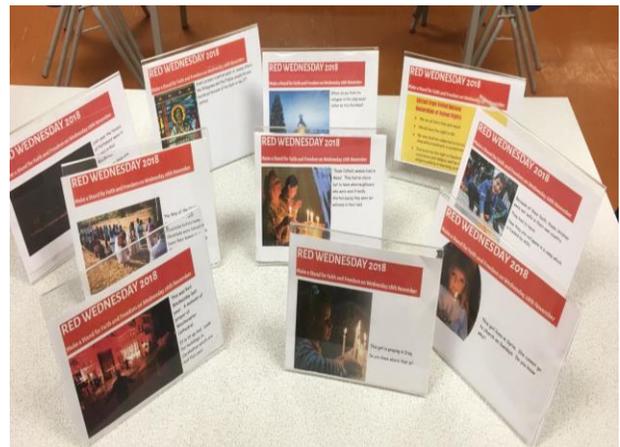
Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Infants

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 for supporting our nominated charities with the collections after our services.

Juniors

The Autumn Term has been busy at the Junior School too. We took part in Red Wednesday; collected socks for the homeless helped by the Passage; collected food parcels in our Reverse Advent Calendar; designed Christmas cards which were distributed to those in our local prisons; all Junior classes visited the beautiful chapel at St Philomena's School for Adoration; and every child took home a Travelling Crib to share with their family.





Our first Faith in Action group had their initial meeting with Mrs. Norbury, our Chaplain, and were joined by parents. All agreed that this would be a wonderful opportunity for our young people to deepen their faith and become active disciples in our world today.



Please remember that the food-bank at St. Philomena's High School for Girls is for families in our schools' community. For more information, email Deacon Errol in confidence on foodbank@stphils.org.uk.

Congratulations to Eleanor M whose winning card design for the Diocesan Christmas Card Competition is now on display in schools and offices across Southwark.



A new Mission Statement is being written to reflect our new Federation. All classes are looking carefully at the current Mission Statement, and selecting 12 words or phrases, which they believe, should be retained. Staff will work with their choices, and the School Council, to develop a new statement. Look out for this in the New Year.



There have been two assemblies this half term on the celebrations of other faiths in our local community: Diwali fell at the start of November and Hanukkah during December. The children enjoyed hearing about the origins of these festivals and about how they are celebrated today.



We thank Y3 for helping us remember the reason for Advent and our Christmas celebrations in the nativity play which they wrote and performed. They concluded by mentioning the 'One Word' which each of us chose at the start of the academic year. You may not wish to think of New Year Resolutions just yet, but when you do, you might like to look at these yourselves: it is much easier to keep to one word than the usual, lengthy resolutions we make on January 1st, and break by the 7th! <http://myoneword.org/>



Table Talk

Table Talk suggests a topic of conversation for your family to discuss at a mealtime together. Some of these topics might take even longer. Topic for this week -

Would you rather live in a democracy or a dictatorship where Father Christmas is the dictator?

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. The children were very excited when we had a visit from Jack Frost! He had been very busy turning everything into ice. 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. Our 'Party Room' has been very popular with the children. We have been very busy writing Birthday Invitations and Christmas Cards for our Friends. We have had great fun learning about winter and are looking forward to start our new topic "Fairy Tales" in the spring term. Thank you for the continued support we receive from all of our families. We wish you a fun and restful Christmas."

News from Reception

Our topic of 'Can We Explore It?' has seen us be the busiest of explorers this half term in Reception! We have experienced many exciting adventures including a bear hunt and visit to the Ecology Centre and cenotaph (when we laid down our clay poppies we had made), trips into space as space explorers and finally into the arctic on snowy adventures and on the polar express! We have enjoyed using our phonics to write many lists; lists of things to take in our rucksacks on the bear hunt, lists of things to take up into space like baby bear and lists of things we would like to Christmas! We have enjoyed using our Number blocks to help us with our Math's learning, as well as other topic related songs to help us with our one more and one less e.g. five little men in a flying saucer. In RE we have found it very exciting thinking about birthdays and advent and counting down to Christmas Day - we have made our own Advent wreaths and role-played a birthday party and the Christmas story. A huge well

done to every single Reception child for their amazing contributions to the Nativity performances - they were amazing!



News from Year 1



We have had a very busy half term. We started our topic "Superheroes" with a Superhero day. We dressed as our favourite superhero; held a parade in the hall, made our own shields and logos. In English, we wrote stories around our texts Superworm and Supertato and also created our own super veggie based on the Supertato story. In math's we have learned how to count in 2's and 5's and used many resources to help with our addition and subtraction. In our RE topic of Waiting, we listened to lots of bible stories around the Christmas story and learned how to wait for special things in our life as well as how Mother Mary waited and prepared for the birth of Jesus.

News from Year 2

This term we have had many exciting activities linked with our topic of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. A highlight of the term was Medieval Day where children experienced a banquet and a Medieval Day. Thank you to the children for their contribution of food and for making the day so wonderful by dressing up in medieval clothes. In English, we focused on the stories Rapunzel and The Tunnel where children were able to write their own

versions and took part in role-play performances to each other. This cross-linked with our Math's where we focused on Measurement (length and weight). We compared different length, weight using the greater more, and less than signs (< and >). Thank you for being part of our community and for all your support in making our Christmas Service a success.



Congratulations to these pupils:

Star of the week - week ending 21st December - Reindeer Class - Noah A, Giraffe Class - Akushuka O, Cheetah Class - Eve K, Meerkat Class - Sophia S, Horse Class - Mike B, Owl Class - Laura K. Well done!

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

Someone is coming, and we have been singing, dancing and celebrating on stage and off to ready ourselves. As you will know, our nativity script was written and then edited ready for the production, this took all of our literary skills - we hope you enjoyed it.

We have also been thinking about the other visitors in the nativity story; using our geography skills and knowledge, we have been looking at map reading as well as orienteering skills to imagine what it must have been like for those three wise men. When the learning dome came we also had a real life experience of stargazing, this was an incredible opportunity to see what it would be like in those times.

Our book of the term was James and the giant peach, most recently, we have completed a book review - it might be nice to watch the film too at home over the holidays to compare.

Mathematically we have started our multiplication and division topics; looking at array and the law of commutativity (its ok Google it - we did!). Continue to practice your multiplication and division facts over the holidays; you will know it better than the teachers when we continue in January!

News from Year 4

Wintry weather has not stopped Year 4 from heading into the great outdoors with their learning these past eight weeks. We started the half term with an exciting trip into London - a wonderful day that saw the sun shine as we walked along the Southbank and sailed down the Thames, taking in so many sights to back up our History and Geography topics. We came back to school buzzing with a multitude of facts and photographs.

While we may not have had snow, we feel like we have experienced it, after entering wholeheartedly into the world of Narnia during English lessons. Children in Year 4 have not only written their own play scripts and acted out their adventures in the style of C.S. Lewis, but they have also taken a chapter from 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and made it their own. The Chronicles have well and truly been rewritten...

PE, PSHE and RE lessons have seen the year-group reflect on trust and teamwork, undertaking blindfolded tasks and problem-solving activities - many of which have been outdoors. Every step of the process brings us closer together.

Year 4 Class assemblies have not only entertained but also educated this half term, covering topics: Black History Month, Road Safety and the tradition of Christingle. Well done to all of the children for taking part with great confidence and super team spirit.

Thank you, parents and guardians, for your ongoing support over the term. We pray that you have a happy and peaceful Christmas and a fruitful year ahead.

News from Year 5

It has been another busy half term and the children have shown great enthusiasm for their learning. In English, we had an in depth look at myths, fables and legends and after planning, the children wrote their own fables. As teachers, we were extremely impressed by their imagination. Later on in the term, we studied "A Christmas Carol" which the children thoroughly enjoyed. All their work culminated in writing a new chapter for the book.

A visit from the Learning Dome set up our Science Week focusing on the Solar System. The children learnt about the first landing on the moon and we had a visit from Neil Armstrong himself (aka Mrs. Beale.) Following on from this visit, the children wrote a newspaper article based on the first landing.

In math's, we have looked at multiplication and the method used in short multiplication. Children have grown in confidence, which is lovely to see. We have carried out various investigations into square numbers, prime numbers, multiples and factors.

French has proven to be a hidden gem! Showing fantastic enthusiasm, the children have learnt how to talk about their hobbies, favourite sports as well as being able to describe the planets (linking it to science.)

Finally, in preparation for Christmas, the RE topic in the last few weeks has been Hope and the children shared many thoughtful responses. Considering the true meaning of Advent, the children discussed how we could prepare for the Birth of Jesus.

May the year five teachers and teaching assistants take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas?

News from Year 6

Through our RE topic of 'Expectations', we have been learning and discussing how our beliefs affect our expectations of ourselves and others during Advent and the importance of the period of Advent to Catholics.

In DT, we have made Christmas puddings. After some exciting taste testing of different Christmas puddings, the children put their baking skills to the test and baked their own puddings to take home and share with their families. We hope all enjoyed the puddings - perhaps these recipes could be improved and shared with other family members over the Christmas break. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help on the Christmas pudding making days in each class - your support is much appreciated.

Within our English lessons, the year 6 students have been busy planning, writing and illustrating amazing Christmas stories for their Year 3 buddies. This topic has been really enjoyed by many children, who have tailor-made the Christmas story specifically for their buddy. It was fantastic to see the Year 6 and Year 3 children spend time reading their stories together.

Our math's learning has journeyed through exploring the 4 operations, adding and subtracting fractions and applying our learning in different ways to solving reasoning and problem solving questions. We look forward to continuing our learning of fractions into the New Year.

To end a busy term, the 'Top of the Form' quiz team won the first round quiz match against Foresters Primary School, their maturity and team spirit were amazing! They were fantastic role models for St. Mary's! Year 6 have helped the rest of the school get into the festive spirit by organising and setting up their own stalls the Christmas Fayre. It has been a busy and eventful term in year 6 where the children have worked really hard across the curriculum. We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year!

Music -

Congratulations to Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and all those who performed at the Christmas Celebration including Year 4 Wider Opportunities - Violin and Cello and Morrison's for 'Save the Children'.

The Christmas spirit as flowed throughout St. Mary's with such a high standard of singing.

Thank you to Ms. McDade for all her help at the Christmas Celebration.
Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs. N. Roberts

E-Safety -

E safety week will take place next term with a focus on Safer Internet Day 2019 which will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the theme: Together for a better internet.

School Travel plan / Road Safety Week



Schools up and down the country took part in Road Safety week organised by the road safety charity Brake. The theme this year was 'Bike Smart'. It took place on 19th -25th November.

This year the week focused on raising awareness about the importance of protecting those on bikes whilst focusing on being Bike Smart by making sure drivers being Bike Smart by looking out for those on two wheels, driving safely and slowly and giving bike riders plenty of space. This related to a number of our children who cycle in to school or use scooters.

Children were reminded about the importance of cyclists and motorcyclists being Bike Smart through safe riding behaviours and appropriate training and equipment. 4 Poplar treated the whole school to an informative and interactive assembly reminding children about the rules of bike and cycle safety. Applications for Junior Travel ambassadors will be advertised in the Spring Term with fortnightly meetings being held by Miss Mayanja! Look out for poster around school next term.





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. The new term started off with Anti Bullying, which took place between Monday 12th - 16th November 2018. This year's theme for 2018 was 'Choose Respect'. Each year group had a mini assembly delivered by their Teachers where they discussed:

What is bullying? What is the definition of respect?

The children reflected and thought about how we can show good and bad respect (with some role-play and acting from the Teachers). The main message of the week was that bullying is a behaviour choice, and that children and young people can set a positive example by opting to respect each other at school, in their homes and communities, and online.

Each individual child received an Anti-Bullying leaflet to refer to as a handy guide, which reminds children that at St Mary's Juniors we are listening and telling school. Thank you to previous school councilors who put this leaflet together. The children were given a reminder of what they can speak to if they are being bullied or witness bullying at school by Miss Mayanja on the Friday.

Awards & Achievements

St Mary's Awards - Autumn 2

3 Mulberry - Vincent M 3 Willow - Ava D 3 Hawthorn - Zoe L

4 Ash - Marie-Chantelle L 4 Poplar - Erin M 4 Rowan - Viviana C

5 Birch - Anabel F **5 Elm** - Nicolas S **5 Sycamore** - Fabiana I

6 Chestnut - Messuna K **6 Copper Beech** - Isabella M **6 Oak** - Alejandro V

Congratulations and well done to all!

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL		JUNIOR SCHOOL
INSET DAY 3	Mon 7 Jan	INSET DAY 3
SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM	Tue 8 Jan	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
Governor's Strategic Planning Session at 7pm	Wed 9th Jan	
	Fri 11th Jan	Swimming 4P Swimming 4A
Liturgy Assembly - Horse Class at 2.45pm	Mon 14th Jan	
	Thurs 17th Jan	Year 3 Classes - Daisy First Aid 9am
	Fri 18th Jan	Year 5 Elm Class Assembly 9am Swimming 4P Swimming 4A
Liturgy Assembly - Meerkat Class at 2.45pm	Mon 21 Jan	Faith in Action Meeting (hall/chapel) at 3.30 - 5pm
EGM for FSM & SMIF at 7pm	Weds 23rd Jan	EGM for FSM & SMIF at 7pm Learning Journal going home - 'My Universe' NSPCC Assembly for all Juniors Year 5 Workshop at 10.45am Year 6 workshop at 11.30am
	Thurs 24th Jan	Year 3 Willow Class Assembly 9am
Sutton Schools Work Assembly (Children only)	Fri 25th Jan	Swimming 4P Swimming 4A
Liturgy Assembly - Owl Class at 2.45pm	Mon 28th Jan	
	Tues 29th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Service at 9am
	Fri 1st Feb	Swimming 4P Swimming 4A
Liturgy Assembly - Reindeer Class at 2.45pm Governor's Pupil Outcomes Meeting & FGB at 4pm & 7pm	Mon 4th Feb	
Governor's Inclusion Committee Meeting in Infants at 7pm	Weds 6th Feb	Learning Journal due in Governor's Inclusion Committee Meeting in Infants at 7pm
	Fri 8th Feb	5 Sycamore Class Assembly 9am Swimming 4P Swimming 4A
Liturgy Assembly - Cheetah Class at 2.45pm	Mon 11th Feb	PAR Evening
PAR Evening	Tues 12th Feb	
SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2PM PAR 2.10pm - 4.50pm	Weds 13th Feb	Year 5 Birch class Assembly 9am SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2PM PAR 2.10pm - 4.50pm
	Fri 15th Feb	Sponsored Bounce Swimming 4R SCHOOL FINISHES
SCHOOL CLOSED - HALF TERM	Mon 18th Feb	SCHOOL CLOSED - HALF TERM
Governor's Standards Committee Meeting at 7pm	Tues 20th Feb	

SCHOOL STARTS 8.55AM Liturgy Assembly - Giraffe Class at 2.45pm	Mon 25 Feb	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
Governor's Resources Committee Meeting at 1pm Governor's FGB Meeting at 7pm	Tues 26th Feb	
	Fri 1st Mar	Swimming 4R
	Fri 8th Mar	Swimming 4R
Height & Weight - Reception Classes All Day	Mon 11th Mar	Faith in Action Meeting (Hall/chapel) 3.30 - 5pm
Height & Weight - Reception Classes All Day	Tues 12th Mar	
Height & Weight - Reception Classes All Day	Weds 13th Mar	
	Fri 15th Mar	Swimming 4R
	Fri 22nd Mar	Swimming 4R
FGB Meeting Juniors School at 7pm	Tues 26th Mar	
SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM	Fri 5th April	SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM
INSET DAY 4	Tues 23rd April	INSET DAY 4
SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM	Wed 24th April	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
Crowning of Mary Mass - Children Only at 9am	Weds 1st May	
SCHOOL CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY	Mon 6th May	SCHOOL CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY
	Weds 8th May	Learning Journal going home - 'a poet and I know it'
	Mon 13th May	Faith in Action Meeting (Hall/Chapel) at 3.30pm - 5pm
	Weds 22nd May	Learning Journal due in
	Fri 24th May	4 th Dimension - Year 6 SCHOOL FINISHES
	Mon 3rd June	SCHOOL STARTS 8.45AM
Governor's Pupil Outcomes Meeting at 4pm	Mon 10th June	Governor's FGB Meeting at 7pm
	Tues 11th June	Resources Meeting at 1pm - Juniors Inclusion Meeting at 7pm - Juniors
	Fri 14th June	Year 5 Under Canvas
	Sat 15th June	Year 6 Isle of Wight Trip
	Tues 18th June	Governor's Standards Committee Meeting at 7pm
	Fri 21st June	Year 6 return from Isle of Wight Trip
	Mon 24th June	INSET DAY 5
	Tues 2nd July	Governor's FGB Meeting at 7pm - Juniors
	Tues 23rd July	SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM