



December End of Term Joint Newsletter - Friday 17th December - Autumn 2 Term

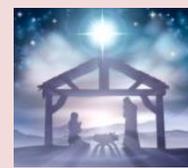
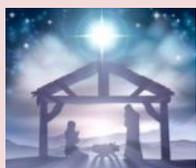
Email: office@stmarysinfchool.org.uk or office@stmarysjunior.org.uk

Executive Headteacher, Mrs S Hulme. Chair of Governors, Mr B Tomkins

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: Miss M Kenny, Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Miss F Sullivan & Miss E Bryant Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond



Wishing you all a Happy Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers,

How fortunate are we? The good Lord has been looking over us these last few weeks, as many schools have closed their doors, either finishing early for Christmas due to the overwhelming number of COVID cases or just to cancel Christmas celebrations; St Mary's has continued to deliver. We have worked together to make the period of the celebration and glory of Christ's birth count.

Thank you to the staff for preparing our presentations and to the parents for pulling together to allow lots of events to continue.

Sometimes we take for granted the benefits of having a cohesive community but please know that our learning community is special due to the people in it.

Let us all celebrate and show respect to each other during this Christmas celebration period whilst we offer our prayers for those suffering sickness and a challenging economy.

Thank you for the many good wishes and gifts these are always much appreciated.

We say sad farewells to Mrs Marsh and Mr Riccio as they leave St. Mary's may they both enjoy more success and happiness.

May the Lord be looking over us all.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Spirituality Sunday 19th December - 5th Sunday of Advent

Thank you so much for your support for Operation Elf. The £2 contributions really added up and the £1010 received in school will enable many prisoners to give a Christmas gift to their child. With your help, we have helped Pact make the festive period a little brighter for families across England and Wales. Every year more than 200,000 children experience the distress and heartache of having a parent in prison. Christmas can be a particularly painful time, but with your help we have made a big difference. We do hope that the lucky winners have enjoyed their chocolate too. <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/operation-elf>

Thank you very much for all your donations to our Reverse Advent appeal. We are so fortunate to have had so many generous offerings for the food bank at St Philomena's. We delivered many bags from the Infants' School, and more again from the Juniors to Deacon Errol who coordinates the packing and delivering of the Christmas hampers to families in our community who need support.

The Travelling Cribs have visited homes during Advent. We appreciate all that you have done to ensure this could be done as safely as possible. It has been wonderful to share the prayers which have been written in the books. Thank you for returning them promptly so that others can take them to their families.



Table Talk Topic for this week - Should people care more about doing the right thing or doing things right?

NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

Wow! It's Christmas time again! We have had a really fun and festive time in Froglet class. We have enjoyed reading and acting out stories about amazing animals. Our favourite story was Dear Zoo: everyone wanted a puppy after reading this story! We had a fun creative day making bears in the 'snow' and are now wishing for some real snow this winter. Our nativity play was so much fun and we are sure that those of you who were lucky enough to attend will agree that everyone sang beautifully. Mrs Marsh was super proud of all the nursery children for their fantastic performance! Thank you for a wonderful term at St Mary's Nursery, we thank all the parents for their support. The Nursery team wish everyone a very Happy and safe Christmas; may the Star of Wonder shine on you all.



News from Reception

This half term Reception started our topic 'Our Adventures.' We began our topic by reading the story 'Leaf Man' and discussing all changes happening around us in Autumn. We made our own leaf characters and had fun describing where they would go on their own adventures. Next we continued our topic with 'We're going on a bear hunt' and the children were very excited when they went on an explorer's expedition with their rucksacks, maps and snacks around the school grounds. We all had lots of fun retelling the story as we went to find the bear. The children have engaged with a range of purposeful writing opportunities as part of these exciting topics. They have begun to apply their knowledge of segmenting and blending and phonics to begin to write independently. We ended our topic in the 'arctic.' where the children explored the arctic through different non-fiction texts and small world activities with ice. We learnt about the different animals that live in the arctic and explored the changing state of ice and water.

The children have been very busy with their Math's learning this half term. We started off by learning all about one more and one less, next we continued to combine two amounts to make a new total. We also learnt how to name and describe 2D shapes by giving clues about the different shapes. We finished off our maths learning this term by focusing on the vocabulary to describe positional language of our cheeky elves. In phonics this half term the children have continued learning Phase 2 sounds and tricky words. They have been busy applying their emerging phonic knowledge to their independent reading and writing. In Literacy, this half term there has been a big focus on independent writing for children's own purposes. The children were extremely busy writing invitations and cards linked to Bob the bears Birthday, and writing their letters to Father Christmas. As part of our RE topic 'Birthdays' this half term they have been learning about "Advent" as we prepare for Jesus' birthday. The children have also emerged themselves in 'The Christmas Story' as part of their Nativity performances of 'Little Angel Lost Her Wings'. They had lots of fun dressing up as the different nativity characters and singing and signing all the actions to the different Nativity songs. We also discussed the meaning of Advent and the Advent wreath candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Jesus as we counted down the weeks in Advent until Christmas Day. The whole Reception team would like to thank you all for your support this term, and to say how proud we are of all the children for beginning their St Mary's school journey with their first term in Reception. We would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year when we start our new topic of 'Earth & Beyond'.



News from Year 1

Year 1 started this half term's learning with a Superhero Day, making masks and designing a logo for their salt dough tile. We wrote stories based on the texts 'Superworm' and 'Supertato' learning to use capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and join sentences with 'and'. Maths topics covered subtraction, addition and place value. Our science topic had us investigating different materials using our science vocabulary, finishing with an investigation into which materials are waterproof.

The children have been learning to wait as part of our Advent preparations in RE. They have enjoyed their travelling cribs. We thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing and performing our Christmas assembly and making decorations and a winter display as part of our creativity day. We would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas holiday.



News from Year 2

What another busy term we have enjoyed in Year 2 with our topic of 'Street Detectives'. It was wonderful to be able to get out into the local community to explore Carshalton, finding out many interesting facts about our local area. A special highlight was the discovery of Anne Boleyn's well near All Saints Church. We researched facts about the well using an appropriate search engine, and found out that the spring appeared when Henry the Eighth and Anne were riding to Beddington Park; her horse apparently stumbled and there arose a spring of water. As part of our learning in History, we created personal timelines, investigating how we have changed from when we were born to now. This led us to explore Carshalton then and now, thinking about places in Carshalton that have changed or stayed the same over the last few hundred years. Our text this term took us on a journey with The Jolly Postman and we thoroughly enjoyed exploring all the different types of letters, posters, postcards and invitations within the story. We ended the topic by writing our own ending to the story where we wrote a letter in character as the Big Bad Wolf, apologising to the Three Little Pigs for blowing down two of their houses. In maths this term we continued the topic of addition and subtraction before applying these skills to problem solving when investigating totals and giving change with money. We explored the topic of Judaism first in RE this term, learning how Jewish families celebrate their Holy Day of Shabbat, before thinking about how we can 'Prepare' for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas. The Annunciation and The Visitation were stories that we listened to as part of this topic. We have also been very excited to share our Carols around the Crib together.

We would like to thank you for your continued support this term and wish you and your families a restful, peaceful and Holy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you safe and well in the new year, where our new topic will be Towers, Tunnels and Turrets.



Stars of the Week (Infants)

Week Ending 17th December 2021

R Fox Class	Arjeta K
R Hedgehog Class	Callum B
R Squirrel Class	Jesse Q
1 Robin Class	Erin N
1 Sparrow Class	Michael M
1 Wren Class	Owen K
2 Heron Class	Anastasia L
2 Jay Class	Cruz J
2 Woodpecker Class	Oliver G

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

This half term has been very busy in Year 3! In English lessons, we learnt about the features of play scripts. Firstly, we looked at the play script version of 'James and the Giant Peach' and compared it to the original story. After becoming mini-experts on this topic, we then wrote the entire script of the Nativity story! This also linked to our RE topic of 'Visitors', in which we reflected on the stories of the Annunciation, Visitation and the Shepherds visiting baby Jesus. Bringing this all together, we were very excited to perform our Nativity to the rest of the Juniors and our parents! We particularly loved the original songs that we learnt in our music lessons.

Within Maths, we have been looking deeper into Addition and Subtraction, working on estimating and using a variety of methods to work out sums involving 3 digit numbers. Furthering this, we have explored multiplication and division, getting started on a very difficult topic. We look forward to exploring this further next half term. Continue to practice your multiplication and division facts over the holidays; you'll know it better than the teachers when we continue in January!

News from Year 4

We've certainly been on our travels in Year 4 this half-term! In English, we've been transported to the enchanted kingdom of Narnia, as we read 'The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe'. Children have shown their enjoyment of this book with the wonderfully imaginative work they have produced. Not only have they designed catchy adverts to sell the White Witch's Turkish Delight, but they also produced their very own travel brochures, describing the many landmarks of the fictional landscape in an enticing way, complete with maps pinpointing key features.

In Geography, every child proved themselves budding travel agents as they each chose a European country to research and show-case, delivering super-persuasive pitches.

Meanwhile, our year-group Creativity Day took us to Brazil - with no-one holding back on texture and colour! From clay coasters, colourful drawings and feathered carnival masks, we all left school in party spirit.

Our Advent journey in RE has seen us reflect on the importance of preparing for the coming of Christ with patience, love and joy in our hearts. We have considered how we can offer our own gifts during this special time by writing a unique gift tag for display. We have also created a kindness calendar to remind ourselves to offer our gifts to others with acts of compassion.

We are very proud of how far the children have come already and look forward to seeing them embrace new learning and make further strides next term. The Year 4 team wishes you all a happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

News from Year 5

It's been a busy term in Year 5. We've covered a great deal of learning, from Ancient Greek games to the solar system. These topics we have covered have really engaged the children and have sparked much enthusiasm and energetic discussions in class.

In English, we've looked at a wide range of fiction and non-fiction. We began by looking at the Butterfly Lion, moving onto Anthony Browne books, the Windrush poem by John Agard and then the Apollo 11 mission. This led to some excellent grammar sessions and some outstanding pieces of writing. Some of the writing we also linked into our History topic: The Ancient Greeks. We wrote in the role of a farmer reflecting on his fortunes across a year and persuaded Doctor Who to travel to an Ancient Greek city. In History, we also looked at Greek cities in detail and their various forms of entertainment, such as Petteia. Our Science topic has been Earth and Space. During this topic, the children have learnt a great deal about our solar system and have shown real engagement and a deep understanding of what we've covered, evident in the excellent class discussions coming out of this. In RE, we have looked at some key religious figures and have gone into great depth looking at and reflecting on their lives, as well as engaging with various sections of the Bible. In addition, the children learnt about the Jewish religion and their important festivals.

On top of the great learning that's taken place in class, Year 5 have taken part in a Creativity Day, Detox Days and had the opportunity to view drama performances at St Philomena's. It has been a packed term and we hope that the children enjoy a well-deserved rest over Christmas.

News from Year 6

This half-term Year 6 children have continued exploring the topic of the Maya learning all about their culture and way of life- the children's enjoyment of the topic and their cross-curricular learning sparked lots of discussions in class. It's fair to say that not every part of the Mayan culture appealed to all of Year 6: some found their sporting game pok-a-tok very exhausting (and much prefer handball); others found the Maya chocolate a little too bitter and much preferred the milk chocolate alternative. All of Year 6, however, had a great time making tortillas and guacamole following a Mayan recipe and sharing the experience with both their peers and family at home. In English all the children took great pride in writing their Christmas stories for their Year 3 buddies. They all worked hard planning these, drawing inspiration from a range of Christmas stories. Writing really neatly was important so that their buddy could read it and much care was taken when drawing their illustrations: the results of all their efforts were truly spectacular. In Science, we have been exploring electric circuits and were particularly excited when finding alternative ways of creating switches- children were seen experimenting with their shoes, their stationery and even asking teachers to remove jewellery so that gold could be used to conduct the power! In RE, the children have been learning the importance of expectation during Advent. We have used scripture from both the Old and the New testament to explore what different people expected of Jesus and the children used their wonderful skills with watercolours to express the meaning of Paul's message of Jesus coming again. Well done on all your hard work Year 6, it has been a lovely end to the school term, have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all next year!



Junior School Christmas fayre

Well done to all our Christmas sweet cup winners! The competition was tough as there were so many fabulous creations, well done to all!



Here are a list of the winners from each class at the Junior School:-

3 Hawthorn - Amelia W

3 Willow - Bernasia

3 Mulberry - Gabriel

4 Ash - Scarlett

4 Rowan - Rocco

4 Poplar - Akushika



5 Sycamore - Cristina

5 Elm - Niamh

5 Birch - Juno

6 Oak - Natalia L

6 Chestnut - Amelie

6 Copper Beech - Sophie



St. Mary's Award:

3 Hawthorn	Emily M
3 Mulberry	Bhadra P
3 Willow	Sophie S
4 Ash	Jack Y
4 Poplar	Oscar B
4 Rowan	Noah A
5 Birch	Jakub K
5 Elm	Josiah P
5 Sycamore	Niamh Q
6 Chestnut	Miya C
6 Copper Beech	Kacper
6 Oak	Esther C

PE

It's been a very busy half term as clubs got going again. We are delighted to have had such a range to offer and look forward to publishing our spring term clubs offer during the next half term. The children have enjoyed having Coach Niall teach one of their PE lessons each week. He has also been on the junior playground engaging children with activity and challenges.

Please can you ensure that your child has their FULL PE kit in school every day. Outdoor PE can be chilly yet indoor PE can be very warm! Therefore, all kit is always required. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Music

Infants -PIANO	Mr Z Mancuso	zino_music@yahoo.co.uk
Juniors - PIANO	Mr P Aslangul	philaslangul@yahoo.co.uk
VIOLIN/VIOLA	Miss A McDade	amcdviolin@me.com
CELLO	Mrs D McGregor	debbiecelloteacher@gmail.com
GUITAR	Mr J Freedman	jules.freedman@outlook.com
BRASS (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone)	Mr P Martin	paulmartin37@hotmail.co.uk
DRUMS	Mr G Roberts	garethdrums@mac.com

E-Safety



ParentZone - <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/>

Be Internet Legends -

https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/

Here are some great E-Safety links -

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

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

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

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



There have been some interesting and informative topics in PSHE across the school this term. During 'Black History Month' in October, the children learnt about inspirational men and women, their achievements and how we can learn from them in 2021.

In November, we commemorated Remembrance Day by decorating poppies and creating a display in the Junior School. Year 4 learnt more about the sacrifices made in the World Wars through an assembly performed by 4 Rowan Class.

This year, Anti Bullying Week took place between Monday 15th-19th November 2021. The theme for 2021 was 'One Kind Word'. The children were reminded that we are a 'Telling and Listening' school and that they must report any bullying to a member of staff.

In the Infant School, the children enjoyed a visit from the Sutton Neighbourhood Police Team, who showed us how to cross the road safely using the Stop! Look! Listen! approach.

News for the week

Attendance

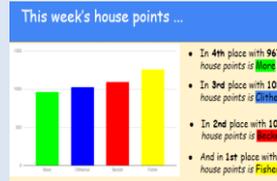
The attendance figure for w/c: 17.12.21

Infants: Juniors:

95.4% 94.6%

Our target is: 97.4%

House Points



Charity Donation Totals

Christmas Shop Charity Donations - £266.90

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children - £189.30

CAFOD - £127.65

Christmas Messages - £13

Sports

On Thursday 9th December, St Mary's football team played against Highview Primary School. It was a high scoring game against tough opponents and all the boys played brilliantly. Unfortunately, we lost the game 9-5, but we were very proud of how the boys played and managed to keep coming back when they were a few goals down. Well done to all the boys involved!



On Friday 10th December, the boys played against Cheam Common. The team were against a number of very experienced academy players, who unfortunately won the game. However, all the boys kept their heads high, kept playing and represented the school brilliantly. We were very proud of you!



On Monday 13th December, both of our football teams took to the pitches of Carshalton Athletic and played 2 fantastic games. We won one game 9-0 and the other 5-0. The boys really came together to play 2 brilliant games, showing excellent team spirit and morale. It was a great evening with lots of support from teachers, parents, grandparents, siblings and more! Thank you all for supporting the boys and well done to everyone who took part!



PTA News

Thank you to St Mary's PTA for the hours of work contributed to make our community projects worthwhile and successful to include the Christmas Trail and the wonderful cook book.

Each school enjoyed a surprise visit from Santa, The Grinch and some loyal elves. This was amazing for the children with gifts of books for the class delivered.

Thank you so much.



School Office

A reminder to parents who are allowed to drive down to the school during the day to drop off/collect children/lunch/kit, please observe the speed signs, St Philomena's have observed cars driving down at speeds much in excess of the 5 miles an hour limit. Please take extreme care as the pupils at St Philomena's use their grounds at all times of the day.

A reminder also to cut up grapes and also stoned fruit needs to be destoned as well.

Donations of Hardback books

A request for donations of any hardback, children's books, fiction or non, no longer required at home, for an exciting project at school - all will be revealed at a later date!

Just regular sized books please, not A4 as in encyclopaedias, annuals etc. Please deliver to the Junior school and thank you for your support. Please drop to the Junior School. Thank you.

School Governors

Thank you to all parents who have returned the gift aid forms. This makes a big difference as we are able to claim £8 for every £35 donated. Please remember to complete the electronic link (Infant - <https://forms.gle/Q3mwAu6vQyySn7SS8> Junior - <https://forms.gle/mBg4YhbLgW9CZAYt6>) in if you have not done so. If you not yet contributed to the Governors fund, please be aware you can still make a payment can be made on Parentpay at www.parentpay.com

Wednesday Word

Please click on the link below to access the weekly Wednesday Word:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/growing?pid=MTA101634&v=25.6>