



NEWSLETTER
19th DECEMBER 2019
SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER – 4th SUNDAY OF 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. S Hulme and **Nursery & Infant School:** Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputy Juniors: Mrs H Nicholls & Miss F Sullivan. **Safeguarding Deputy Infants:** Mrs S Hulme & Miss E Bryant. **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,

On behalf of the staff and governors, we all wish you a most holy Christmas and a successful 2020.

We have had a wonderful Christmas season in school filled with children's laughter and bright smiles together with reverent reflection and deep understanding of looking forward to the celebration of Christ's birth.

This comes as a result of complete dedication from staff and families working together. It is not present in all communities and is amazing when it is. Well done to everyone, in this busy world to still take time for very important discussion and prayer.

On behalf of the children and staff, we wish to thank the huge teams of helpers who have made every event shine. We would also like to express our thanks to parents for their good wishes and gifts. These are very much appreciated.

The charity work has exceeded every other year in terms of donations and financial contributions. We will report on final figures in the New Year.

Finally, please take time to be with your friends and families during the break. We need each other and they certainly need you. Look left and right to see who is missing out and maybe you can lend a helping hand in the name of our good Lord.

Happy Christ's birthday St. Mary's community.

Spiritual

Infants

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The children have been busy preparing by listening to the special liturgies and taking part in Nativity and Carol Concerts. Well done to all the children for singing so beautifully and reading so clearly. Thank you all for the generous donations to the Reverse Advent collections, several boxes have been filled and taken for families in need within our community.



Juniors

It has been a busy half term! On the Solemnity of All Saints', we celebrated a whole school Mass, including children from the Infant school. We thank Fr Luke for helping us to understand that we are all saints.

All classes have had a Chaplaincy Session with Mrs Norbury with a focus on the messages of Pope Francis: the juniors focused on his Beatitudes for young people; Y1 and Y2 thought about Laudato Si (live simply); and Reception thought about the meaning behind the words of the Our Father.

On **Red Wednesday**, we prayed the Angelus at midday, joining others around the world in solidarity with those who do not have the freedom to practice their faith as we do. Y5 went to Mass, thinking about someone who is unable to do so- perhaps in Syria.

We thank you all for your generosity and consideration of other people in our community. Donations for the backpacks for Malawi, organised with the charity Mary's Meals, are making their way to Africa! The video we saw of children receiving these gifts made us feel very proud of sharing such happiness. <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/the-backpack-project>

We started our Advent preparation for Christmas by visiting the chapel at St Philomena's for a time of Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The children found that this time of silence with Our Lord brought them peace at a time of year which is usually very busy. <https://bustedhalo.com/video/watch-advent-two-minutes>

Donations continue to come to school for our Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of taking something out, we put something in... these donations go to the Food Bank at St Philomena's for anyone in our community who might need them.

Christmas cards were designed by children at the Juniors for entry into the Diocesan Christmas Card competition. The winning entries were sent away and the Chaplaincy Team and the Faith in Action team have been busy turning the rest into cards, which will be sent to prisoners at High Down and Down View. Fr Paul will distribute these for us.

Faith in Action Award (Y6 children) started last week: this year we are collaborating with St Philomena's High School for Girls. This group of children work towards the Award, which recognises, rewards and celebrates the active faith and service of young people.

[NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL](#)

News from Nursery

The Nursery classes have had such a wonderful half term. Our topic 'Amazing Animals' has led to so much learning including new stories such as 'Dear Zoo' and 'Walking through the Jungle.' The children have loved learning about the different types of animals and talking about the similarities and differences of where they live. Our topic finished with a visit from 'Our amazing animal world' who brought a selection of animals to school including a rabbit, turtle, bearded dragon and snake. The children were so brave and all touched and held different animals.

As we prepare for Christmas our RE topic 'Birthdays' has introduced the children to the concept of Advent and Jesus' birthday on Christmas Day. Each day we open the doors to our Advent Calendar to hear the next part of the Christmas story.

We were so proud when our lovely ladybirds went on to the stage to perform their Christmas nativity 'The Very Hopeless Camel' they looked wonderful in their costumes and did a fantastic job remembering songs, actions and lines. Well done!

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year for more exciting learning and our new topic 'Fairytails'.



News from Reception

It has been an amazing half term and we are proud of all the children. We started the half term off with our topic 'Can we explore it?' We began our topic in the 'forest' on the hunt for a bear. The children thoroughly enjoyed our key text; 'We're going on a bear hunt' and were very excited when we went on a trip to look for a real bear. We left the 'forest' and continued our topic into 'space.' The children had a lot of fun exploring space through our key text; 'Come to tea on planet Zum-Zee' and learning all about the different planets. We ended our topic in the 'arctic.' The children have enjoyed exploring the arctic through different storybooks, learning about the different animals that live in the arctic and exploring the changing state of water.

The children have been very busy in Math's this half term. We started off by learning all about one more and one less which led into addition and subtraction. The children also learnt the 2D shapes and all about their properties, positional language and size. In phonics this half term the children have continued learning phase 2 sounds, tricky words and have been busy applying their phonic knowledge to their independent writing. In Literacy, this half term there has been a big focus on writing. The children have been very busy writing invitations which linked into our RE topic 'Birthdays'. They wrote letters to Father Christmas, which they posted, on a trip to the postbox and Christmas cards for their friends and family. Our second RE topic this half term was 'Advent' where we have been learning all about the Christmas story and the children enjoyed retelling the story to their family and friends during our nativity production 'Little Angel Lost her Wings,' what Advent is, what each candle represents, what we are waiting for and we have also been busy making our own Advent wreaths. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year when we start our new topic of dinosaurs.



News from Year 1

This has been a very busy half term for our "Superheroes". We had a Superhero day where we dressed up as our favourite Superhero and enjoyed creative activities around our topic. We made our own Superhero from clay and designed and made costumes for it. In RE we learned how we wait for a special event and listened to the Bible story of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth as they awaited the arrival of the special baby. In English, we looked at the texts Superworm and Supertato and used them to help us sequence a story and write sentences. In Math's we have been looking at addition and subtraction using number lines to count on and back. We finished our science topic on Materials by carrying out experiments to find out if materials were waterproof. The Year 1 team would like to wish you all a happy and restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



News from Year 2

This half term we have enjoyed our topic of 'Towers Tunnels and Turrets'. We have looked at stories with towers and tunnels in them and explored the features of a castle in English. We ended our topic with Medieval Day, which saw all the children, and staff dress up as a range of different characters. The children also had a banquet in the afternoon with some medieval dancing. In math's we have been exploring how to make different amounts using coins and notes. In RE we have been learning about Advent, where we have prepared for this special and exciting time by making our own Advent Calendar. In science, we have been looking at how different animals are adapted to their environments and habitats. Everyone in year 2 would like to wish you a happy and merry Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

This term has been a wonderful journey for year 3. The children have learnt about the features of a play script and from this wrote, practised and performed their own Nativity story with resounding success. We used the classic novel *James and The Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl and its play script version to support the children in this mammoth task of writing their own play. This has been a half term where we have seen the children grow and flourish into a more mature manner with this responsibility.

Our math's focus for the last few weeks has been multiplication and division and this will continue into the spring term. The children are getting to grips with using Times Table Rockstars and the inter class competitions have been a real hit. Keep up the work in the studio and using the multiplication booklets over the holidays.

History has looked into life as an Egyptian farmer and compared it to the life of a Pharaoh. We also looked at how the river was used to create fertile land for planting crops and rearing animals. In the New Year, we will finish our Egyptian adventure by looking at food and how their food posed a challenge for many Egyptian dentists.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our year 3 families a peaceful and restful Christmas and look forward to a prosperous 2020 for all. Merry Christmas!

News from Year 4

"When you're tired of London, you're tired of life." Samuel Johnson.

Is there really everything life can afford within London? Year 4 have been investigating, looking at the physical and human geographical features, historical and current maps and comparing and contrasting.

Our trip to the River Thames helped us to understand why London has grown over the years, and why rivers are ideal places for settlements. We also learned some excellent facts from our tour guide, especially about the bridges that cross the River Thames. We still feel sorry for lonely Southwark Bridge that has the least crossings!

In English, we have combined our geography knowledge with our persuasive skills and begun a 'visit London' campaign. We used the acronym AFOREST to remember all of the features of persuasive writing- statistics is Mrs. Richardson favourite!

Our math's has been focused around multiplication and division for a few weeks and will continue into the new year... we'll be tackling formal written methods in January so get lots of number fact practice in over the Christmas holidays!

We have been thinking about gifts and gifting during Advent for our RE lessons. We thought about gifts that we give, and gifts we have received. We told each other about the gifts that gave us the most joy, and friendship was one of the most joyful of all. As we draw closer

to Christmas, we continue to think about how we are friends with Jesus and how we can spread the joy of that friendship to others, by gifting our smiles, kindness and love. We wish you the most smiley of Christmases and look forward to a friendly new year.



News from Year 5

What a jam-packed half term this has been!

In Year 5 we have been doing a lot of cross-curricular learning: in both English and science we have been learning about naturalists. The children researched facts themselves and then learnt how to take those facts, expand them and turn into interesting biographies. We definitely have some budding authors amongst us with the turn of phrases and vocabulary that we have seen in their writing.

We also had an exciting trip to the Science Museum where the children were budding experimenters, exploring all areas of Science in the "Wonderlab". We all enjoyed the VERY LOUD show "Crash, Bang, Wallop!" whilst we were there too: a fantastic way to enjoy the science around us.

In French, the children have been working hard to write extended sentences using "parce que" and give their opinions on different school subjects - PE continues to be a popular choice!!!

All 3 classes have enjoyed swimming over the autumn term, with many children achieving milestones here- fantastic to see the children working hard to overcome their fears and for some, make their first steps at swimming in the big pool- we are so proud of you!

Both Elm and Sycamore led class assemblies this half term, which were great fun to prepare and Birch will be doing their one in January.

We've finished the term in math's learning about statistics again maximising cross-curricular links through our work in geography and science. We have explored many bar charts and graphs!

All our budding artists have enjoyed exploring watercolours in art. Inspired by a variety of different artists, the children have been using all sorts of new techniques and have produced a stunning collection of work.



Within RE, the children have been learning the importance of "hopeful waiting" in the Advent season. We have used Old Testament writings to help us understand this, hearing from Isaiah and Jeremiah as well as using the wonderful painting by Holman Hunt to fully understand Jesus' role as "Light of the World".

The Year 5 team wishes you all a happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all ready for our exciting new learning titled: "Lost in ...Suspense!" after the holidays.

News from Year 6

There have been so many fantastic learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom this half term in year 6! All year 6 assemblies have been shared this half term, every child read confidently and shared their learning with the rest of the school.

In DT, we have been making Christmas puddings. After some exciting taste testing of different Christmas puddings, the children put their baking skills to the test and made 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 with each class - your support is much appreciated.



Earlier in the term, it was Road Safety Week. We had the police come and discuss the importance of keeping ourselves safe when walking and travelling around. In the same week,

6 children had the opportunity to use a police speed gun and listen to the reasons speed guns are used to monitor the speed cars are driving at in order to keep us safe.

During the last few weeks, year 6 students have been extremely busy planning, writing and illustrating Christmas stories for their Year 3 buddies. Each Christmas story has been specifically written for their buddy. We hope their buddies enjoy their special Christmas stories.

To end a busy term, the 'Top of the Form' quiz team won the first round quiz match against Cheam Common Primary School, their maturity and team spirit were amazing! They were fantastic role models for St. Mary's!

It has been an 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 -

Christmas Nativities and Carol Services

Well done to Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 for all your hard work with your performances. Christmas cheer filled the room with your beautiful singing.

Choir

Thank you Junior Choir for joining in with Year 3 Nativity and also Year 6 Choir members who also performed at Morrison's in Sutton raising money for 'Save the Children' and then we visited the elderly at 'The Oaks Way Centre'. The residents got into the Christmas spirit and even sang along as well!

Christmas Celebration 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 Mrs Roberts, Miss McDade, Mrs Nicholls, Miss Framp, Mr Patrick 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.

E-Safety -

<https://parentzone.org.uk/parents>



Need some more support in keeping your child safe online? Have a look at ParentZone which is designed to help parents facing challenges in this digital age.

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/>

Awards & Achievements

St Mary's Awards - Autumn 2

3 Mulberry - Harry J **3 Willow** - Niamh Q **3 Hawthorn** - Sheranka P

4 Ash - Meghan N **4 Poplar** - Noah S **4 Rowan** - Ethan L

5 Birch - Ben N **5 Elm** - Oliver B **5 Sycamore** - Alison W

6 Chestnut - Charlie N **6 Copper Beech** - Jude N **6 Oak** - Sophie C

Congratulations and well done to all.

PSHE
Association



It has been a busy term in PSHE at the Juniors school. There have been a range of themed events and weeks. The children have been learning about healthy lifestyles and making good choices that affect their health and wellbeing. The term started off with Anti Bullying Week which took place between Monday 11th and 15th November. This year's theme for 2019 was 'Change starts with us'. In each class, the children discussed key questions and thought about the clear and positive message that bullying is not acceptable in our school community and who we can go to for help.

The children were treated to a range of themed assemblies this term including:

- 3 Hawthorn - Black History Month
- 3 Willow - Space theme - the first man on the Moon
- 4 Rowan - Climate change
- 6 Oak - Remembrance Day
- 4 Ash- Back to the future!
- 3 Mulberry - The Rugby World Cup
- 5 Elm - The God who Speaks/Life Choices
- 5 Sycamore - A reflection of the past decade for 5 Sycamore
- 6 Copper Beech - Refugees
- 6 Chestnut - The Season of Advent

General Election

As part of our ongoing promotion of British Values throughout our curriculum, the children had an opportunity in classes to find out about what a general election is, why it is taking place and what the role of an MP entails.



School Travel plan / Road Safety Week

Road Safety Week took place on 18th - 24th November 2019 with the theme 'Step up for safe streets'. Schools up and down the country took part in Road Safety week organised by road safety charity Brake. This year the themed week focused on raising awareness about being safe when travelling on the streets. Each year group received a visit from the Police and a workshop about keeping safe when out and about and using public transport. Some children from Year 6 were chosen to analyse the average speed of cars with a speed gun on a local road. Thank you to PC Syed and Sophie who delivered these workshops and spoke to children around school during Lunchtime.

Fortnightly meetings for existing Junior Travel ambassadors will resume on Thursday 9th January 2020.

E Safety

E Safety week will take place next term with a focus on Safer Internet Day 2020 which will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 11th February 2020 with the theme: Together for a better internet.

Miss Mayanja - PSHE subject lead

We would like to say farewell and good luck to Mrs Lynch and Mrs Edwards. We wish them luck in all their future endeavours and thank them for their time at St. Mary's.

Please check out the new Spring menu for school meals!

<https://www.smcsc.org.uk/school-meals.php>

Please remember to email the school office to make any changes to your child's lunch time food patterns.

School Crossing Patrol Job Advert

Kingston and Sutton Shared Environment Service is looking for an enthusiastic School Crossing Patrol Officer, also known as a lollipop person to join their team.

Location: Shorts Road

Copy and paste this link <https://afc-rbk-lbsjobs.engageats.co.uk/ViewVacancyV2.aspx?enc=mEgrBL4XQK0+ld8aNkwYmFj1UEDTNnNPWqHg1HhoxeL2yHYVs7IyRjmETLC4wXMTGCW96Ivy3IvPqqu8XT4eM1/fZJb0Tv5OKDj7WrugEQXIM+shNXZqe7kCYnF7qEcO+BVMD4Gezv6VeNvKEpgHS8g5I8X1IQkrilyRNAqcOU=> for the online advert. The advert is live until the beginning of January.

When you sneakily record your child's Christmas play...

...it is likely a child in that school is at risk of abuse, or has been removed from a dangerous and chaotic life and has been placed into foster care or with adoptive parents.

If we then publicly post a picture or video with the child in the background... a friend shares it, the abusers see it, and they then know the child's school.

Potentially, this child then has to pack up their belongings, move to a new home, new school, new carers, new life. All to protect them from dangerous people in their lives coming after them. All because we needed to share it online.

Please, just follow school policy. They don't tell you not to record because they are miserable. They tell you this to protect vulnerable children.

#nophotosplease