

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Love God... Love Others... Love Ourselves...



T'was the night before Christmas,
God glanced over the earth.
He looked to and fro
all over it's girth.

'They missed it again,'
he said with a sigh,
a heavy heart and a tear in his eye.

'I gave them my son so they could be free.
My greatest gift to them from me.
They traded me in for a man in red,
a little tree and a horse drawn sled.

How do I save them and make them see,
my love is complete, my grace is free?
How do I help them, when all they know
is a talking snowman and a box with a bow?

Maybe next year they will stop and see -
The biggest gift of Christmas is the little child from me.'





Catholic Life of the School

In RE this term, we have explored the following themes:

Church Community (Family):

Under the Church Community theme, the children looked at God's love and care for every family. They developed their understanding of how God is at every beginning and that He knows and loves every one of us.

Baptism/Confirmation (Belonging):

Under the Baptism/Confirmation theme, the children learned that baptism is a welcome into God's family and they explored the signs, symbols and promises made at Baptism.

Advent/Christmas (Loving):

Under the Advent/Christmas theme, the children looked forward to Jesus' birthday and learned that Advent is a time to prepare and look forward to Christmas and that it is a period of waiting in joyful hope for Jesus.

Collective Worship

At St Mary's we continue to work to support our local and wider community.

In September, we celebrated our Harvest Festival with an assembly in school. Your very generous donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries were distributed by the SVP and we received a number of letters of thanks.

At the beginning of November, we joined the Parish community to celebrate Mass for All Saint's Day. We remembered our loved ones who have died with a beautiful display entitled 'Lilies for a Loved One'. Every member of our school community was invited to make a lily and write the name/s of people they would like to remember. The display was very well received by our parents and visitors to the school.



During Advent, our families have been filling backpacks with a range of items to support children in developing countries throughout the world through the organisation 'Mary's Meals'. To date we have collected £315.57 from donations at our performances and 110 backpacks.

Thank you for your amazing generosity.



The whole school attended our Advent Penitential Service in the Church. We reflected on the importance of preparing our hearts for the Christmas season.

Assemblies

Each Monday morning a member of staff leads a whole school assembly based on the previous day's Gospel. The children have the opportunity to reflect on the Gospel message and how it applies to their daily life in school.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Proposed Clubs – Spring Term

DAY & TIME	ACTIVITY	OPEN TO:	LED BY
Mondays 8.00 – 8.45am	Tennis Club	Year 1 upwards	Natasha Argent <i>(hall)</i>
Mondays 3.20 - 4.20pm	Construction Club	All years	Red Balloon Family <i>(Hall)</i>
Tuesdays 8.00 – 8.45am	Yoga	All Years	Emma Pierce Yoga <i>(Hall)</i>
Tuesdays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Tennis Club	Year 1 upwards	Natasha Argent <i>(Hall)</i>
Wednesdays 8.00 - 8.45am	Karate Group 1	Year 1 upwards	Lee Valley Karate Club <i>(hall)</i>
Wednesdays lunchtimes	French	Y1 & Y2	Le Club Francais
Wednesdays 3.20 - 4.20pm	French	Y3,Y4, Y5&Y6	Le Club Francais
Wednesdays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Girls Football Club	Y5 & Y6 (Until half term)	Tottenham Hotspur F.C <i>(Junior Playground)</i>
Wednesdays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Cookery Club	Year 1 upwards	Smart Raspberry Cookery School <i>(hall)</i>
Thursdays 8.00 – 8.45am	Karate Group 2	Year 1 upwards	Lea Valley Karate Club <i>(hall)</i>
Thursdays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Little Goals Football	Y1, Y2, Y3	Mr Hughes <i>(Play Ground / Hall)</i>
Thursdays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Art Club	Y1 – Y2	PPA Cover <i>(Aquinas Area)</i>
Fridays 8.00 – 8.45am	Gymnastics	Y2 to Y6	Flipstars Gymnastics <i>(hall)</i>
Fridays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Boys Football Club	Y5 & Y6	Mr Hughes <i>(Junior Playground)</i>
Fridays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Cheerleading	Y1, Y2 & Y3	Dance Focus Ltd <i>(hall)</i>
Fridays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Athletics	Y3 – Y6 From 1 st March 2019	Jane Farrier, Orion Harriers <i>(Chingford C of E field)</i>
Fridays 3.20 – 4.20pm	Art Club	Y3 – Y6	PPA Cover <i>(Aquinas Area)</i>

Events - October

We continue to work hard to ensure our curriculum is broad, balanced and enriched with our trips out and the visitors that come in.

October saw us 'out and about' with visits to the following places:

Reception had their first class outing to Suntrap. Year 1 found out all about Guy Fawkes at the Gunpowder Mill.

Year 3 visited Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge. Year 6 travelled to the Isle of Wight where they enjoyed learning new skills and more about each other.

We celebrated our Harvest Festival in school and Black History Month with African Drumming Workshops for all classes.



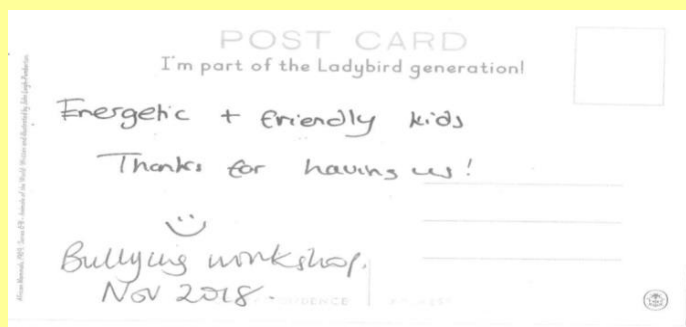
This term saw an increase in the range of sports offered to our children. Year 5 & 6 girls represented St Mary's at the WFSSN Girls Football Tournament and boys from Y4 took part in a Rugby Festival at Chingford Foundation School.

Events - November

November was a month of Remembrance. Year 6 attended a service to remember the Centenary of the end of WW1 at Chingford Mount Cemetery and in school we remembered our loved ones who have died.



Years 3 and 4 visited Suntrap and we welcomed lots of visitors into school. Our Governors spent a day with us, seeing our school 'in action' and finding out more about the things they hear in meetings. Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a performance of Macbeth by the Young Shakespeare Company and Y5 learned about life in Ancient Greece from History of the Page. As part of our PHSE programme, KS2 attended an assembly entitled 'The B word.'



Y2 were very excited to get a visit from Pru the Hedgehog after Mr Joslin heard them reading 'The Hogeheg' by Dick King Smith which is one of their whole class shared reading books.



Our footballing girls were busy again, this time sporting a brand new kit!! We are very grateful to Mr Mark Hughes who accompanies our children to many sporting competitions.





Events - December

In December, Y2 work on the Great Fire of London culminated in a visit from History of the Page and they had an enjoying time bringing events to life.

Our work with Tottenham Hotspur Foundation continues and some of our Y2 children had the opportunity to visit their Academy and play against other teams in their Primary Stars Festival. The staff who followed the programme were also recognised at this event.

A large number of very brave KS2 children took on the weather one Saturday to participate in a cross-country event organized by Orion Harriers on Chingford Plains. All of them ran well and a couple of children managed 4th position. A big well done to all.



After a lot of hard work in class learning the songs, our Year 6 children came together with other schools in the Diocese to perform Bethlehem – The Musical' in Brentwood Cathedral. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to celebrate the Christmas story in a bigger venue and was enjoyed by both the children and their parents.

A huge highlight in December is our whole school trip to the pantomime at the Kenneth More Theatre – oh yes it is!! This year we enjoyed a performance of Aladdin and it was Mr Finn's turn to endure the attention of Widow Twankey, which he did in very good spirit.





Christmas at St Mary's

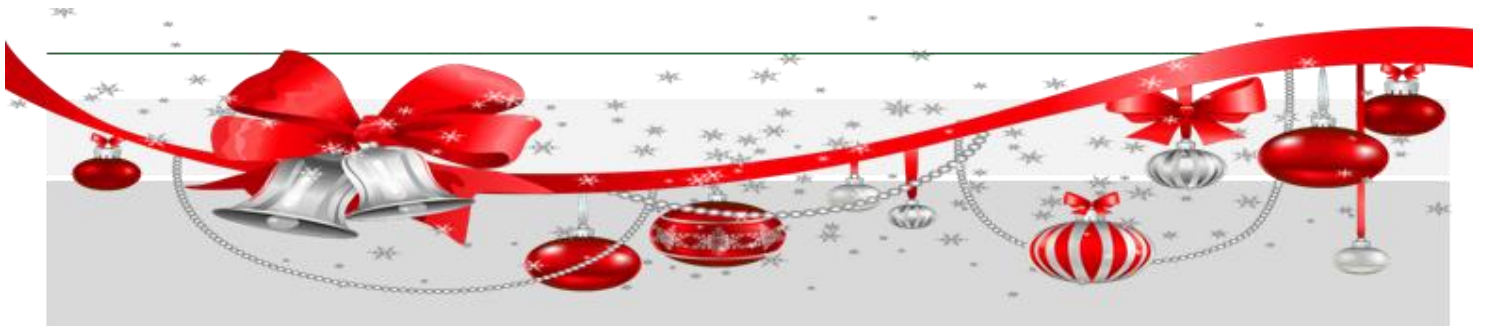
All our children have enjoyed the opportunity to perform in either 'Noisy Nativity' or 'Bethlehem – The Musical' as part of our Christmas celebrations in school. The performances have enabled them to experience the significance of the season in an enjoyable way and I know that these were very well received by our appreciative audiences.

We enjoyed our Christmas day at school on Tuesday with a roast turkey dinner and all the trimmings.



Later in the afternoon, each class had a surprise visit from Father Christmas and his elf helpers. He had presents for all the classes and the all children were really happy with the gifts they received.





A few reminders.....

Friends' of St Mary's

Every parent is automatically enrolled as a 'Friend' when their child starts school at St Mary's. All proceeds raised from the Friends' of St Mary's Association goes directly to benefit your children at school. Without your support, this cannot happen. Please try to make a commitment to attend at least two events over the course of a year. The Committee would welcome any offers of help or ideas.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to say an extra special thank you to the Friends' committee for the very hard work they put into these events – planning and preparing behind the scenes to ensure every success.

Communication

Please remember to keep the school office updated with your latest mobile number and email addresses. It is your responsibility to inform the school when this information changes, otherwise you will not receive important information, flyers and telephone calls.

Arriving Late to School

If your child is late to school, **please can you bring them into the school office.** Although parents no longer sign their child in to school, parents still need to make sure that their child is marked as arrived.

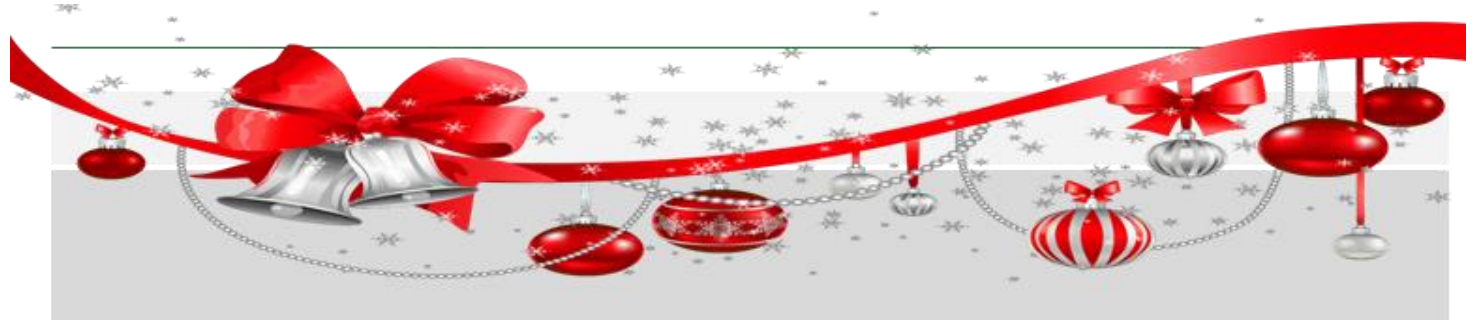
The school office is cashless, and all payments and consent are made via school money.

All uniform and replacement badges are now available to purchase in the shop on school money. Once purchased, these items will be distributed to your child over the next few days. Parent assembly lunches are also in the shop. Please make sure all lunches are purchased the day before the assembly at the latest, as dinner numbers need to be given to the kitchen. If your child normally has a packed lunch and would like a school dinner on that day, please notify the office.

Please can you make sure that dinner money is topped up in advance for your child. School dinners are current £2.35 a day. The default weekly top up of £11.75 is pre-set on school money, although this figure can be changed if you prefer to pay for the month/half term.

Should you encounter any difficulty, please contact the school office for assistance. School money is now used to obtain consent. Please click on the consent button on your screen and consent for that trip/activity. This will allow you to bypass paying the 1p. **Please remember that we are unable to take your child on a trip if consent is not given.**





Forgotten items

Please can you try to remember all the things that your child needs for the day. Although the school office is very understanding, it is very time consuming delivering book bags/trainers etc, that have been left at home.

Thank you for your consideration

School Uniform

Can I remind parents when buying school uniform to bear in mind that **Black Coats are NOT part of the school uniform.** Coats should be either navy blue or brown. Please also bear in mind, that the FOSM have regular uniform sales. If you have any uniform that your child has grown out of, please can you hand it into the school office for resale.

Thank you.



**Loving
Father,**

Help us remember

The **birth of Jesus**

That we may share in

*The **song of the angels***

The gladness of the shepherds

And the **worship of the wise men.**

Close the door of hate and

Open the door of love all over the world.

**Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting.**

Deliver us from evil by the **blessing which**

Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear

Hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy

to be **Thy Children,** and the **Christmas evening bring**

us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN

FOR JESUS' SAKE

AMEN

**SCHOOL WILL RE-OPEN FOR
THE SPRING TERM ON
MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2019**

May I wish you all a peaceful and joyful
Christmas with your families

Philomena Egan

Philomena Egan

December 2018

