



ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 14 | 10th December 2021

This week the number of active COVID-19 cases (people isolating) within the school has fallen again and we are now able to lift some of the restrictions we have been operating under. It was an absolute joy to be able to welcome parents to site for the Fair and the Nativity Play this week. Thank you for continuing to be vigilant and testing, when appropriate, it has helped us to minimize disruption whenever possible. We are hopeful that we will be able to go ahead with our Christmas Carol Service. If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 please do complete the Google form to let us know if they will be attending as soon as possible:

<https://forms.gle/UUwpXyy7bZLJ6EFK8>

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15th December – Reception's Annual Polar Express Day

Thursday 16th December – Key Stage 2 Carol Service – Led by Year 4 – 7pm

Friday 17th December – Last Day of Term – Mufti in aid of our Advent Appeal - 1pm Finish

Tuesday 4th January – Start of Spring Term

End of Term

You will see that we will now be finishing school at 1pm on the last day of term (17th December). Going forward, we will have a half day at the end of every full term (not every half term) in line with other local schools.

Christmas Fair

It was so wonderful to see so many of you at the Christmas Fair on Saturday. There was such a fantastic atmosphere on the day, which created a great start to the Christmas season! Thank you all for your help and support over recent weeks with preparing, collecting, setting up and running the fair, and also to all of the parents who contributed to mufti days, prizes and attending the Fair itself. We are particularly grateful to our PTA committee who worked tirelessly to arrange this special event for us all to enjoy.

We have one more fundraiser for the year - an online auction for some prizes that were so unique or relevant to particular year groups that they were not included in the raffle. Please have a look at the link below and bid on these fantastic prizes before Tuesday 14 December!

<https://www.32auctions.com/SMMChristmas2021>

Nativity

What an absolute delight it has been to welcome parents to our Nativity performances this week, it really brought home what a fantastic community we are and what a pleasure it is to celebrate our children's

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achievements together. Our children were absolute shining stars and really filled our school hall with music, laughter and a lot of love. If you would like to purchase a recording of the performance it is available via SCOPay for £10.00 per family <https://www.scopay.com/login.html>.

Tag Rugby

On Wednesday 8th December, our Tag Rugby team went to play Kew Riverside. It was a high scoring match with a number of break-away tries by both teams. The score stood at 6-6 on the final play of the game with Kew Riverside having possession and the opportunity to win the match. Fortunately, our teams defense was impeccable and we were able to force six errors in order to tie the game. A great start to our league matches and the team's maturity and conduct meant they were excellent ambassadors for our school. Thank you, Mrs Grabski-Bruce, and Mrs Maza for helping with transport to and from the match.

Shop 'til You Drop

Our Year 6 children have been hard at work running their Shop 'til You Drop businesses. Many of you will have seen their fantastic enterprises at the Christmas Fair but they also ran a wonderful Christmas Market in school this week. All our younger children were able to attend and our whole school assembly was a joyous occasion as we announced the lucky winners of several fantastic competitions. Thank you to Miss O, Mrs Thomas and Mrs O'Gorman for all their hard work and to the parents who I know have provided a lot of support in background.

Advent Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money today for our Advent appeal. We have already raised over £150 which the Prayer Monitors will use to buy gifts for refugees. They will be selecting gifts from the charity below:

https://secure.freedomfromtorture.org/page/92485/donate/1?utm_campaign=21EA060/C/WEB&utm_source=mainsitehomepage&utm_medium=internal#/

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health and wellbeing remain a priority for our school and Barnes Primary has kindly opened an event they are holding on 27th January about child development and mental health to our parents and staff. You can find out more and register your interest via the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SIt6RMHRmkqcV0yxjP_piT4ugeT5ftNDgJGEm7mGPqNUMIISUkIQSkQ2MkxZVEpLQ0pKSzM1RDA2RCQIQCN0PWcu

Walking Home

We are very proud that so many of our pupils are responsible and mature enough to walk home alone. However, as the nights are drawing in some of them may be feeling a bit more concerned about walking home by themselves and we are encouraging them to walk with a friend whenever possible. We are also working with our community police officer to do everything we can to help our children be confident and safe. If you are thinking about your child walking to and from school by themselves you may want to read

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the NSPCC advice sent with this newsletter which gives some advice on how you can support them and prepare them for the different eventualities they may encounter.

Kickstart

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary school is participating in the Kickstart Scheme which provides funding to employers to create jobs for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit. It is a great opportunity to give members of our wider community the chance to get some work experience and to hopefully spark a passion for teaching. A Teaching Assistant role is currently being advertised at St Mary Magdalen's Primary School. Click the link below if you would like more information or contact your work coach at the job centre. <https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk/details/7092996>

Pupils of the Week

Reception – Paddling Class – Emily Ogura
Year 1 – Circus Class – Leo Di Maria Rodriguez
Year 2 – Tribe Class – Penelope Lelliot
Year 3D – Leap Class – Riley Monk
Year 3FC – Zeal Class – Alessio Arcari
Year 4 – Journey Class – Sam Hughes
Year 5 – Aurora Class – Xaviera Driussi
Year 6 – Parade Class - The whole class

Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Willow Barros for some marvellous mathematics.

All our pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for a fantastic Nativity Play.

As we near the end of term, I hope you have a restful and festive weekend with your children.

Catherine Hughes
Headteacher