



# ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Autumn 14 | 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

It has been a week full of festive celebrations. We made a fantastic start at the Christmas Fair on Saturday which I am sure you will all agree was the most wonderful event for the whole community. Thank you to everyone who came to the event, all those who helped out and a special thanks to the incredible PTA committee, Alison, Astrid, Badral, Clare, Fran M, Fran S and Gabi who organized it all. Yesterday, we were blessed to come together to enjoy our infant nativity. Thank you to all the parents and governors who came to watch this enchanting performance and to our music teachers and the staff in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who helped the children prepare for the show. Of course, the biggest thanks of all has to go to the children who sang, danced and acted out this most special of stories with such confidence and charm. It was, as always, the most beautiful reminder of the great gift of God's love that we celebrate at Christmas.

## Dates for your diaries

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Class Christmas parties in school – Change of date

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Carol Service Years 3-6, 7pm

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term – School closes 1pm

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** – Start of spring term

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Epiphany Mass led by Year 6 – 9.30am

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 4 Museum of Richmond craft workshop

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 3 class assembly after drop off

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - First holy Communion Enrollment Mass

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 2 class assembly after drop off

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 1 class assembly after drop off

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Individual Support Plan Meetings with parents all week

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Year 3 Safe Walking Training

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Reception class assembly after drop off

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – Parents' Evenings

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – Swimming Gala

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February** – Half Term

## Class Masses

We are due to have class masses next term on the following dates:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3

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The Year of Global Citizens – “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Year 2

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1

However, these will be confirmed with the priest covering Father Adrian in the new year.

### **Strep A and Scarlet Fever**

There have been four confirmed cases of Strep A or scarlet fever within the school. I understand that many parents and children are concerned and we are putting in place all the recommended measures to help minimize the spread. This includes, regular reminders regarding hand and respiratory hygiene, covering grazes and cuts, minimizing shared resources and cleaning high touch points. We have also been advised that parents should request a throat swab from their GP if their child has symptoms and that children who have been prescribed antibiotics should remain at home for the first 24 hours of this treatment. We are keen for all children who are well to be in school so please do contact the school if your child is well and not in school currently so we can discuss what can be put in place to ensure their return. Please see the additional guidance that has been shared with schools by Dr Muhammad Usman Khan, consultant in Public Health.



### **Football Tournament**

Our Year 5 and 6 boys conducted themselves beautifully during the recent locality football tournament. The team came second in their group and just missed out in the second round of group matches narrowly missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals. There were some great results on the day and the team won against a number of far larger schools. Thank you to Hassan and Mr Whitmore for their hard work and support and well done to Daniel, Elias, Floyd, Gabriel, Luca, Nathan, Raffy and Tomas.

### **Christmas Carol Service (Years 3-6)**

The Christmas Carol Service for Year 3-6 will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Church. Please note that this service is not suitable for pre-school children. Key Stage One children are permitted to attend and should sit with their parents. We are asking that Key Stage 2 children return to school in full, smart uniform and meet their teacher in their classrooms. Please return **no earlier** than 6:30 and **no later** than 6:45 p.m. The children will process to church and then return to their classrooms after the concert. Please collect your child from the school playground.

Father has asked that families donate a poinsettia to help decorate the church for this special occasion. If you are able to do so please drop your donation at the church or alternatively at the school office by Thursday morning.

## Parental Controls

With Christmas approaching you may be considering buying a device for your child. Achieving for Children's digital advisor, Peter Cowley has updated his advice regarding parental controls. The guidance has been sent out with this newsletter and had been uploaded to your child's Google classroom.

## Chess Awards

We run a lunchtime chess club in school and the winners of this term's awards are:

Luke Grindal, Pearse Freeman and Sofia Farrant. A particular well done to our champions JP Dowell and Benjamin de Serra!

## PTA Announcements

### Movie Night

We hope the children enjoyed Arthur Christmas at the School Movie Night today. If your child has missed out and would like to attend on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, please reach out to your class reps and a ticket will be organised. Tickets price is £7 and includes hotdog, popcorn, sweets and drink. The children will be collected from their classrooms at 3.20pm and will be dismissed from the school playground at 5pm.

### Tea Towels

This term the children have drawn their own self-portraits, and their collective works of art have been printed onto our very own school tea towels! These will make great memorabilia for the children, or thoughtful Christmas presents, all while raising much needed funds for the PTA. The tea towels can be purchased via SCOPAY for £5.50 each, or £10 for two. Ordering closes on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and they will be distributed from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December. <https://www.scopay.com/login>

### Water Bottle and Tote Bags

The PTA commissioned school branded Tote Bags and Water Bottles. The Water Bottles are BPA free and dishwasher friendly. If you would like to purchase either of these items, they are available for purchase via SCOPay under uniforms. Water Bottles are £4 and Tote Bags are £6. <https://www.scopay.com/login>

Finally, thanks for your ongoing support to the PTA and especially for your support at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It was a fantastic day filled with Santa Letters, Choir Singing, and Mulled Wine.

If you were unable to attend the Christmas Fair but would like to donate toward funds raised by the PTA for the school, you can do this via the PTA Just Giving Page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/stmm-pta>

Regards, SMMPTA

(Alison, Clare, Fran M, Badral, Fran S, Astrid and Gabi)



### Advent

This week we rejoice as we are part way through Advent and we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas. This week we have talked about the joy that the shepherds would have felt when they encounter Christ wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

We have thought about what brings us joy and how we can bring joy to others. I hope that you will be able to take part in the Christmas charity appeal which will hopefully bring some hope, peace, joy and love to those in need this Christmas.

### Christmas Appeal

Father Adrian has suggested that we work with the Parish on their Christmas Appeal. Whilst we know that there are many pressures on finances and time, particularly during the festive season we would ask families who can to donate empty shoeboxes and some basic toiletries to fill them. The children will then make up Christmas gifts that will be distributed by the charity Centrepont. Many of those who will be receiving these items are young people who are not that much older than our pupils. It is a great chance for us to help the children to understand that there are people who are less fortunate and that we can help and support them – a particularly valuable message at what can be such a commercial time. Suggested items include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo, haircare, skincare, toilet roll etc. The deadline for donations will be first thing on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December as Centrepont will be collecting donations later that day.

#### Pupils of the Week

Reception Antarctica – Pia Pellew-Herrera  
Year 1 Australia – Gabriel Carter  
Year 2 Africa – The Whole Class  
Year 3 North America – Nico Arcari  
Year 4 South America – Sofia Tilio  
Year 5 Europe – Elodie Myburgh  
Year 6 Asia – Ghassan Assi

#### Headteacher's Award for Exceptional Work

Riley Monk for lots of new learning in his Religion lessons  
Tilly Couch and Elina Whitmore for perfect poetry  
Eva Hughes and Vanessa Luscevka for wonderful reflection on the advent wreath

I hope you stay well and warm this weekend with your children and I look forward to our final Christmas celebrations with them next week.

Catherine Hughes,  
Headteacher

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