

## JOINT NEWSLETTER

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent -Autumn 2 Term

Email: [office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysinfschool.org.uk) or [office@stmarysjunior.org.uk](mailto: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: Mrs M Kenny, Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs F Black & Mr S Pratsis & Mrs E Heath, Safeguarding Governor: Mr. T Richmond



### A message from Mrs Hulme

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your company on so many occasions during the last couple of weeks leading up to the end of term. It hasn't been the easiest of weeks due to significant staff absence but due to great teamwork, all events have continued and the children have enjoyed the full experiences.

Enormous thanks must go to the members of the PTA who have worked many hours to ensure a good time is had by all to include a special visit to each school by Santa, The Grinch and Elf. This has become a wonderful tradition and enables each child to be part of the fun. Each class was given a gift of books to enhance their curriculum. It is interesting to know that children still enjoy reading and research of books as well as electronic teaching.

Wednesday was Christmas dinner day (the most popular day of the school year) and gave further opportunities to wear Christmas jumpers / accessories to celebrate together.

Further thanks are also included to every family who has supported the events /initiatives and charity actions.

We are immensely proud of our support for charities that include Operation Elf, the collection of supplies to go to the foodbank and collections for CAFOD that exceeds £600 over both schools. Our community is very active in being charitable and we wish to thank you all.

The staff wish to acknowledge the many offerings of good wishes and Christmas gifts. These are all really appreciated for your kind thoughts - thank you

I would like to personally wish you all a wonderful happy and peaceful Christmas time with your friends and family as we move towards 2023 and further success for each other. May God Bless you all as we celebrate the birthday of his son Jesus.

### Juniors - St. Mary's Award

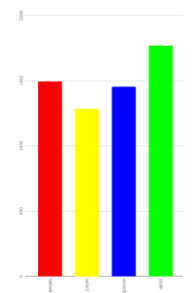
|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 3 Hawthorn     | Bodhi     |
| 3 Mulberry     | Oliver    |
| 3 Willow       | Alexander |
| 4 Ash          | Sienna    |
| 4 Poplar       | Jakub     |
| 4 Rowan        | Hugo      |
| 5 Birch        | Ella-Mae  |
| 5 Elm          | Caterina  |
| 5 Sycamore     | Isabelle  |
| 6 Chestnut     | Ewan      |
| 6 Copper Beech | Xavier    |
| 6 Oak          | Simone    |

### Recognition & Reward

#### Infant - Stars of the week

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| R Fox        | Will       |
| R Squirrel   | recommence |
| R Hedgehog   | soon       |
| 1 Wren       | Mia        |
| 1 Sparrow    | Luis       |
| 1 Robin      | Arjeta     |
| 2 Heron      | Isabella   |
| 2 Jay        | Eliana     |
| 2 Woodpecker | Eva        |

#### Junior - Housepoints

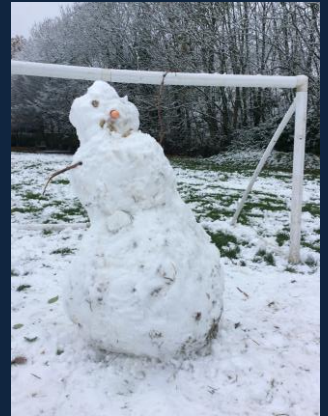
|  |   |
|--|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> is Fisher<br>with: 1284    |  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> is Clitherow<br>with: 1454 |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> is Becket<br>with: 1495    |   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> is More<br>with: 1769      |   |

## News for the week

Having our very own winter wonderland which started on Sunday 11th December, it was an opportunity for the children to use all their making and creative skills in building a series of snowmen.

The competition for the most inventive snowman was won by 1 Robin Class, which was adorned with scarf made of natural found materials.

Congratulations to every child who contributed to the building of these.



### PTA



#### Amazon Smile

If you have not registered for this service perhaps, you might consider this over the holiday period. Thank you to those who already make use of this.

#### Wednesday Word

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

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/lent?pid=MTA101634&v=53.11>

## Spirituality

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it is a time to thank the Lord, a time to rejoice with our families, and a time to celebrate together as a school family. Thank you to all the parents who attended our Carol Concerts, Nativity Plays and for all the children who read so clearly and sang so beautifully. Some of our children can be seen online, as they presented CAFOD's Advent Assembly this year! [CAFOD's Advent Assembly 2022](#)

This term we have been thinking about Human Dignity. Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold the dignity of each and every human being. Everything else flows from this dignity. We are incredibly proud of the amazing support you gave to Operation Elf and donations to the food bank with The Reverse Advent Calendar. On their Creativity Days, children at the Junior School have also made Christmas cards for prisoners at our local prison as we spread the good news of Christ's birth. These were received with gratitude by the charity Pact. [Prison Advice and Care Trust](#)

The Chaplaincy Team took some time for reflection after their busy term, using prayers to Our Lady using a Ukrainian icon of Mary, patron of our school. This time of silence is difficult to find, especially at this time, but we can recommend it. You may like this site with a daily 3 minute reflection to your phone or computer: [3-Minute Retreats Daily Online Prayer | Loyola Press](#)



## News from Nursery

Wow! It is Christmas time again! It has been great getting to know you all and your children this term. It has been a busy term focused on giving your children new experiences to develop their love of learning. We have had lots of fun and festive time in Froglet class. We have enjoyed reading and acting out stories about amazing animals. There has also been plenty of crafting taking place, with children making lots of special things to bring home for Christmas. The arrival of the Christmas tree in our classroom was extremely exciting. The children worked together to decorate the tree. Nothing gets you in the mood for Christmas like a nativity performance. Nursery children spent lots of time rehearsing their parts and making sure, they knew all of the words to the songs. All of the hard work put in by the children paid off on the big day and the performance was a huge success. They did a fantastic job and we are all very proud of them! Well done everyone! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continued support as always! We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year and hope that 2023 is a prosperous and enjoyable year.



## News from Reception

This half term Reception enjoyed our topic 'Our Adventures!' The children were very excited to go to their class 'Bear Hunt'. They have been very busy applying their emerging phonic knowledge to their independent reading and writing. The children really immersed themselves in 'The Christmas Story' as part of their Nativity performances, and they performed their singing and signing with great success, Well Done!! The Reception team would like to thank you all for your support this term and we are very proud of the children for having such a great start to their Reception learning journey. We would like to wish everyone a very blessed and Merry Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year when we start our new topic of 'Earth & Beyond'.



## News from Year 1

The children have enjoyed their topic 'Superheroes' this half term. We wrote stories based on the texts 'Superworm' and 'Supertato' learning to use capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and join sentences with 'and'. 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 taking home and sharing the travelling cribs. We thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing and performing our Christmas Carol Concert in the church 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

The children have enjoyed their topic of Street Detectives this half term. One of the biggest highlights was when we went for a walk around our local area of Carshalton. When we explored, we saw the tallest plane tree in London, the War Memorial and Carshalton ponds. During our science topic we learned about the properties of different materials. At the end of our topic we predicted whether we could bend, squash, stretch or twist different objects. We have also investigated different 2D and 3D shapes in maths. The children loved preparing their carols for our Carols round the Crib, and they sang beautifully - we were so proud of them for learning the words for so many songs! We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas!



## News from Year 3

In mathematics, Year 3 enjoyed practical lessons, which supported their new learning of the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

In Science, Year 3 experimented with different surfaces in order to determine which surfaces produced more or less friction.

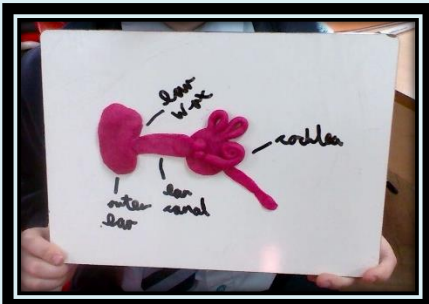
We also explored magnets as part of our learning about 'Forces'. We were amazed to discover all the magnetic things that surround us in everyday life!

This week, a very special visitor (Ho! Ho! Ho!) Brought us early Christmas presents and we were very excited and grateful to receive them! Merry Christmas everybody!



## 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. 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 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

In Year 5, we have travelled through time and space to find out all about Earth and the planets. Learning about the moon landings was so interesting and we wrote newspaper articles as if we had been there. We have explained, as scientists, how day and night happen and why the moon appears to change. This led us to paint pictures of the seasons and write out our own poetry. We have learned a poem about seasons off by heart: ask a Year 5 if you would like to hear it! Sharing our class assemblies with the school and our visitors was a real highlight this term. Sadly, we have also learned that some children and adults are unable to share their faith in the countries where they live. You can see our Ukrainian research and flags below. On **Red Wednesday** we went to Mass for those in Ukraine who are unable to do so.



## News from Year 6

This half-term, Year 6 has 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-preferred handball); others found the Maya maths a tad challenging. However, all of Year 6 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 their stories, using amazing descriptive vocabulary and drawing their illustrations: the result of all their efforts were truly spectacular. Within RE, the children have been learning the importance of expectation during Advent. Well done on all your hard work, Year 6- especially running the Christmas Fayre. It has been a lovely end to the school term, have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all next year!



## PE News

Autumn term has been jam packed in for PE and sports at St. Mary's! Children across all year's groups have tried a range of different sports and skills, building on their prior year's and term's learning. Many children have attended a range of different competitive fixtures and festivals during and after school. We try to share these out as much as possible to allow more children to have these opportunities as they present themselves to us. We used some of our PE Premium money to train teachers in active lesson outside of the PE curriculum and bought sports related fiction and non-fiction books for the library. One of the most popular moments of the Autumn Term was when Freestyle Footballer and 22 x Guinness World Record Holder, Ash Randell, came to visit both schools. He gave us a display of what he could do and the children got to join in

too. Such great memories for all and a chance to try something new and unusual. We are looking forward to what the spring term brings!



JOIN OUR ENSEMBLES

# Count me in Week!

WEEK COMMENCING 16TH JANUARY 2023

Do you play an instrument? Have a passion for performing? Want to make new friends and develop your musical skills?

Join us for our FREE 'Count me in!' Open Rehearsals, in the week of 16th January 2023!

We have a wide selection of instrumental ensembles for a range of ages and abilities.

Spaces are limited - scan the QR code to guarantee your place now!



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## Seasonal Opening Hours

### MITCHAM

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec    | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec     | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec                              | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan                                 | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan                                 | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan     | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan                                 | <b>CLOSED</b> |

### ALL OTHER STORES

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec    | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec     | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec                              | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan                                 | <b>CLOSED</b> |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan                                 | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | <b>OPEN</b>   |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan      | <b>CLOSED</b> |

[Click for more info](#)

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