



**JOINT NEWSLETTER  
CHRISTMAS 2020  
SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Nursery & Infant School: Mrs. M Quinn.  
 Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs. S Hulme, Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan & 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.

## Merry Christmas

### A Christmas Message from your Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to everyone! We made it!

With the amazing support and working as a tight community together we have remained fully functioning for the whole term. With strict expectations and safety measures our attendance in school has been good and we have seen the benefits of consistent learning and building up of emotional confidence. We need to be very proud of each other and share this success. This is due to the tenacity and commitment to each one of you included in this final newsletter of the term.

On behalf of the staff, we would like to thank you all for the wonderful good wishes, acts of kindness, donations to the many funds and the thoughtful gifts. These generous gestures are really appreciated and make a difference to people's lives in school, in our community and further afield. Thank you.

We now have Christ's birthday to celebrate with our families. Christ speaks to us through the Gospel with words of encouragement and love. We can show appreciation of his love and guidance by trying to have the best Christmas that we can in the circumstances. Dance and sing and make the best of the simple joys.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

Please look after yourselves and each other as we head for the spring term and hopefully another time of successful learning and good health. We ask for your blessings Lord 🙏. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We wanted to share the link below with you all that showcases some displays and Christmas features in both schools with the backing music by year 3 children singing 'Away in a Manger', which is also available on the Google Classrooms and website. We hope you enjoy it.

[St. Mary's Christmas Greeting](#)

## Spirituality

This half term, the children at the Infant School took part in a virtual Chaplaincy session with Mrs Norbury. We heard about the journey that Mary Bear made to Rome and joined in with trying to spot all the different places that she visited.

Thank you very much for all your donations to our Reverse Advent appeal. We are so fortunate to have had so many generous offerings for the food bank at St Philomena's. We delivered two car loads from the Infants' School, and more again from the Juniors to Deacon Errol who coordinates the packing and delivering of the Christmas hampers to families in our community who need support. Homeless people locally will welcome the many pairs of socks: thank you.



The children have all been very busy preparing for their year group Nativity productions. This year has been a strange one as we have not been able to perform to parents or other year groups. However, the children have taken part in performances, dressed up in nativity costumes, listened to the Christmas story and sang carols.



## CAFOD

Children at both schools joined a national assembly by CAFOD for their day Light of the World. We thank you all for your generous donations, currently at several hundred £s over our target of £1,050 [St Mary-s-catholic-federation-carshalton just giving page](https://www.stmaryscatholicschools.org.uk/cafod)

Each year group found out about the work of CAFOD in different countries around the world. In Y6, they found out about life in Guatemala, and how CAFOD helps the people who live there. They made a paper version of some traditional embroideries and then sewed Advent candle pictures using cross stitch. Aren't they lovely?

Their teachers showed Y6 the World Gifts page: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> Often, teachers buy small gifts for children to take home on the last day of school, but Y6 then voted to ask for

World Gifts instead. 6 Oak are giving the gift of reading, 6 Copper Beech have donated a goat and 6 Chestnut giving the gift of chirpy chickens and supporting a child to read.

### TRAVELLING CRIBS

A big thank you to all Junior pupils in Y4, 5 and 6. In previous years these children have all taken home a Travelling Crib in a gift bag from school. Sharing the crib at home, praying together and returning the book and bag to school has become a lovely tradition during Advent. This year, so that all Y3 pupils could take home a crib, other pupils gave up their turn so that we had enough cribs which could travel safely between homes and school (with a period of quarantine) in Y3. We hope Y3 and their families enjoyed this part of our preparations for Christmas. Y4, 5 and 6 children have taken home a paper crib which they can make at home, share with their families and keep for another year.

### FAITH IN ACTION



Undaunted by the difficulties of COVID-19 restrictions, 35 pupils in Y6 have embarked upon this year's CYMFED Faith in Action Award program with Mrs. Norbury. They have attended their first reflective session and have already done some wonderful acts of service in school, including making Christmas cards for both people in care homes and those in our local prisons.



Click on the link below for a reflection for each of these last days in Advent:



<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BNumrDfOwGA2aZKjU4CGhdL2ZKKyhDcQe6E-KWlpZD4/edit?usp=sharing>

### NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

#### News from Nursery

The Nursery classes have had a really fun Autumn term! They have been learning so much this past term. The nursery classes were learning about Amazing Animals. They read the book, 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell. They made snakes, lions, giraffes and many other animals. The children had a 'walk' through a 'jungle' when they read 'Walking Through the Jungle' by Julie Lacome. The children really enjoyed learning about special events like birthdays and christenings. All the nursery children made Advent Wreaths to take home and share with their families. We also read some Julia Donaldson books this term. We read 'The Gruffalo', 'The Gruffalo's Child', and 'Stick Man' at the end of term. The children loved learning about rhyming words and listening for the words in the stories. We have ended the term with learning about The Nativity Story. The children enjoyed learning all about the birth of the baby Jesus. All the nursery children have really enjoyed this term and have learned many new things that they can share with their family.



## News from Reception



This half term Reception started our topic 'Can we explore it?' We began our topic in the 'forest' as the children thoroughly enjoyed our key text; 'We're going on a bear hunt' and were very excited when they went on an explorers trip with their rucksacks and maps around the school grounds to find the bear. We continued our topic into 'space.' through our key text; 'Come to tea on planet Zum-Zee' the children loved counting down to blast off and learning all about space, rockets and the different planets. We ended our topic in the 'arctic.' where the children explored the arctic through different storybooks and small world activities. They have learnt about the different animals that live in the arctic and explored the changing state of ice and 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. They then learnt the names of 2D shapes and described their properties to guess and give clues about the different shapes. We finished off learning about positional language and size. In phonics this half term the children have continued learning Phase 2 sounds and tricky words. They have been busy applying their emerging phonic knowledge to their independent reading and writing. In Literacy, this half term there has been a big focus on independent writing for children's own purposes.

The children were extremely busy writing invitations and cards linked to Bob's Birthday, and writing their letters to Father Christmas. As part of our RE topic 'Birthdays' this half term they have been learning about "Advent" as we prepare for Jesus' birthday. The children have learnt about the Christmas Story and each of the Advent wreath candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Jesus as we count down the weeks in Advent until Christmas Day. The children have been very excited to put on their class Nativity performances of 'Little Angel Lost Her Wings'. They had lots of fun dressing up as the different nativity characters and singing and signing all the actions to the different songs.

The whole Reception team would like to thank you all for your support this term, and to say how proud we are of all the children for beginning their St Mary's school journey with their first term in Reception. We would like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing everyone back in the New Year when we start our new topic of 'Dinosaurs'.

## News from Year 1

Year 1 started this half term's learning with a Superhero Day, making masks and designing a logo for their clay tile. We wrote stories based on the texts 'Superworm' and 'Supertato' learning to use capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and join sentences with 'and'. Maths topics covered subtraction, addition and place value.

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 working on their Advent books, please continue to work on these over the holidays. We would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas holiday.



As well as performing our Nativity Year 3 also had their Penitential Service in school where the children began their journey of reconciliation towards receiving their First Communion. It was a great treat to receive a message from Father Patrick from Holy Family Catholic Church in Sutton. Despite this service taking place in a very different way to normal Mrs Norbury led us in a virtual celebration of this part of the children's journey in their faith.

From all the staff in Year 3 we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous 2021. Keep safe and well over the festive season.

#### News from Year 4

Year 4 has been on a European adventure this half term, looking at the different parts of Europe, their flags and capital cities. We have taken this into our English work and written persuasively trying to entice people to visit their chosen country - they even presented this via a google slide in geography alongside a speech!

We started the term immersing ourselves in the world of Fantastic Mr Fox, turning the story into a playscript and developing our use of adverbs for stage directions. This also helped us with our expression and intonation when we read too.

Our science topic of sound had us looking at the waves of different sounds - I'm sure you'll have heard about the chrome music lab oscillators that helped us understand the difference between high pitch sound waves, low pitch sound waves and the amplitude of sound waves! We even saw how this works on musical instruments.

But our most special work has been in our RE as we prepare for our best gift of the year - Jesus. We have been sharing how we prepare ourselves and how the Gospels tell us it was always in God's Plan. Over the Christmas break we wish you the very best of gifts; time with each other.

#### News from Year 5

What a journey Year 5 has been on this half-term! Using the enjoyment of topics to make new links and discoveries, our cross-curricular learning has certainly prompted a wide range of skills from the children. We have rowed to the beat of a drum in an imaginary Greek trireme, wandered around galleries and museums in computing and travelled through time zones in geography. Children have gathered pace in their writing in English, producing an impressive collection of genres - from newspaper reports on the first moon landing, to recounts based on an ancient Greek farmer's fortune.



In the past two weeks, pupils' winter narratives, inspired by the book, *The Polar Express*, have also displayed their flair for descriptive scene-setting and story-telling, putting us in the mood for a magical Christmas.

This half term's maths topics have boosted our technical vocabulary - ask your child what these words mean: product, multiple, factor, perimeter, area.

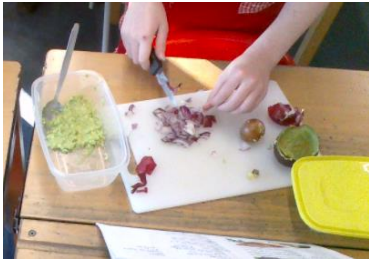
All 3 classes have enjoyed exploring sketching skills in art. Inspired by ancient Greek art and artists, the children have challenged themselves to master new mark-making techniques and materials. They have all produced a stunning final piece in the form of a sgraffito Greek vase design.

Within RE, the children have been learning the importance of 'hopeful waiting' during Advent. We have used Old Testament writings to help us understand this as well as 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, ready for our exciting new learning, in the new year.



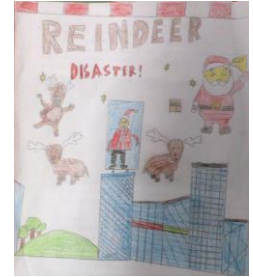
## News from Year 6



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 prefer handball); others found the Maya chocolate a tad too bitter and much preferred the milk chocolate alternative. 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. In science we ended our



topic of electricity by designing and creating our own winter village scene using our knowledge of circuits and switches to add lighting and a Christmasy effect. Within RE, the children have been learning the importance of expectation during Advent. We have used scripture from both the Old and the New testament to explore what different people expected of Jesus and the children used their wonderful skill with watercolours to express the meaning of Paul's message of Jesus coming again. Well done on all your hard work Year 6, it has been a lovely end to the school term, have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all next year!



## Awards & Achievements

### **St Mary's Awards - Autumn 2**

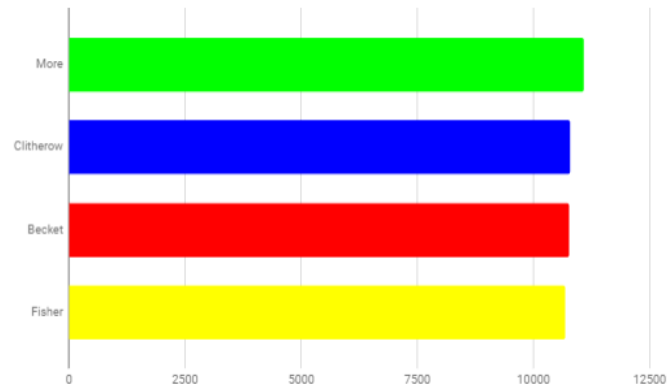
**3 Mulberry - Kate P 3 Willow - Emmeline K 3 Hawthorn -  
4 Ash - Elsa Z 4 Poplar - Violet K 4 Rowan - Annabella G  
5 Birch - Daisy D 5 Elm - Alana L 5 Sycamore - Iris N  
6 Chestnut - Estela J 6 Copper Beech - Merab T 6 Oak - Adrian L**  
**Congratulations and well done to all!**

### House points

It has continued to be a busy term on the house point front, with each week being hotly contested, it is wonderful to see such a narrow margin between the winners each week, last week there was only 16 house points between the top two! The phrase every house point matters has been ringing true!!

The scores for the 4 teams are sooooo much higher than last year, congratulations to all children, in all teams for their hard work which has resulted in so many house points being given out. Without further ado, for this term:

In 4th place with 10,686 was Fisher  
In 3rd place with 10,765 was Beckett  
In 2nd place with 10,786 was Clitherow  
and winning the house cup this term with an almighty 11,077 house point was ... Moore!!!



### Music

What a term of Virtual Music it has been! The pupils across both schools have been great at learning new songs, singing quietly, exploring new genres and composing music using Groovy Music.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and looking forward to new adventures in 2021!  
Mrs N. Roberts

### E-Safety -

Will your child spend more time on tech this Christmas? The Legends Family Adventure from Google and Parent Zone will help you all become Internet Legends - and have festive fun along the way!

The Legends Family Adventure - Google and Parent Zone's new animated series - is the perfect winter watch for families. It's part of the Be Internet Legends programme — helping children to be safer and more confident online.

When Lumen's bear goes missing, the whole family must brave Interland to get it back. Along the way, the family learns lessons from the Legends Code — including helpful tips on what to do with cyberbullies, how to spot scams and set strong passwords, as well as important lessons on kindness. And, Lumen discovers they're stronger and braver than they ever thought they could be.

Once you've watched the films, it is time to test your family's online safety knowledge by entering The Legends Family Challenge, proving your legendary status and maybe even winning some prizes for our school. The prizes include an international assembly with a school in the USA - and some fantastic goodies to help us decorate our classrooms in 2021.

Embark on this adventure as a family by visiting  
[https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/parents/adventure](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/adventure)





**ParentZone** - [How to have the perfect digital family Christmas](#)

This has been a year like no other - and it promises to be a very different Christmas too. But that doesn't mean it can't still be special. Though some activities will be off limits this festive season, the digital world offers countless ready-made replacements.

Parent Zone has put together **a guide to the ways families can bring Christmas online** and still have a wonderful break. We hope it's useful - and that you have a great holiday.

Here are some other great E-Safety links -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>



**PSHE**

In PSHE at the Junior school this half term all year groups have been learning about Money and Work, thinking about what influences career choices and how they might identify job interests and aspirations. Discussions have also covered issues such as workplace stereotypes and how we might challenge them.

The Junior school marked Remembrance Day in November with a class assembly and a silent reflection. All children made a poppy either to wear or for display. Year 6 representatives, led by Mrs Nicholls, also took a hand-made wreath to place at Carshalton's Cenotaph on behalf of St Mary's.

This year's theme for Anti Bullying Week, between Monday 16th and 20th November, was 'United against Bullying'. During the week, daily discussions linked to the topic took place in everyone's class. The children reflected and thought about how we can individually and collectively play a part in preventing bullying. Why don't you ask your child about the ideas they contributed towards their class pledge to put a stop to bullying? There was also a reminder that St Mary's is a 'telling and listening' school and that they can speak to an adult if they are being bullied or witness bullying at school.



As well as Road Safety and E-Safety, class discussions with children have also centred on keeping safe around strangers. During class-led assemblies, teachers have equipped children with a set of positive strategies to help them to keep safe:

- Having the confidence to trust their instincts if they have a bad feeling about a place or person.
- Knowing who they can trust if they need help.
- Learning to be assertive if necessary.
- Knowing that they should tell a trusted adult if they have been approached by a stranger.

Other useful links for stranger awareness and safety, include:

Clever never goes - <http://www.clevernevergoes.org/parents>

Childline - [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

NSPCC - [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### School Travel Plan

**NO NEED  
TO SPEED**

ROAD SAFETY WEEK  
16-22 November 2020

This term we went over this year's Road Safety Week Theme of 'No Need to Speed'. Children were reminded and discussed how speed affects other people. Every time we're on the road we need to consider what speed is appropriate to keep ourselves and others safe. Children discussed what may distract them when they are in a car or walking to school, considering that we must protect ourselves when out and about. With the Christmas period well into swing, please remember to keep safe on the roads

Thank you to all the parents who have kindly donated towards our CAFOD fundraiser. We have raised an incredible £1444, we had an amazing 30% of families make donations towards our CAFOD fundraiser.

### PTA

Thank you to the core members of the PTA who have worked tirelessly to make this year a special Christmas and to the families who have supported the events. The children were delighted with their gifts and a hugely successful visit from Santa and The Grinch- how wonderful for us to enjoy that privilege. Once again the local residents have shared their appreciation of having the wonderful stars at the front of the Infant school to read and admire.

### Bike Riding Safety

Pupils Riding bikes into school require the wearing of a safety helmet

### Boots and Wellington Boots

Boots and wellingtons can be worn on the way to school but then need to be changed to school shoes for indoors.

### Contact Tracing going into the New Year

If your child shows symptoms before or up to the Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 and you need to take your child for a test, please let the school office know via the school office email. Infant School Office: [office@stmarysinfschool.org](mailto:office@stmarysinfschool.org) or Junior School: [office@stmarysjunior.org](mailto:office@stmarysjunior.org).

In the email please ensure you let us know the following information;

- Name of your child
- Class
- Symptoms they are displaying
- What date the test is booked for?

Once you have received the test results, please send a further email confirming the outcome of the test.

## Dates for the Diary - 2020-21

Please check both school's dates for the diary to ensure no dates are missed!

(Dates which are crossed through indicate cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions, dates with TBC next to it means 'To Be Confirmed'.)

| NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL          |                             | JUNIOR SCHOOL                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>   | Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec    | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>  |
| <del>INSET DAY 3</del>           | Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan     | <del>INSET DAY 3</del>          |
| <del>INSET DAY 4</del>           | Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | <del>INSET DAY 4</del>          |
| <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>         | Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan    | <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>        |
| Nursery PAR Evening 3.30pm – 5pm | Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb     |                                 |
| Nursery PAR Evening 3.30pm – 5pm | Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb    | Junior PAR Evening 5pm – 8pm    |
| Infant PAR Evening 5pm – 8pm     | Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb   |                                 |
| Infant PAR Evening 2.20pm – 5pm  | Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | Junior PAR Evening 2.20pm – 5pm |
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>   |                             | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>  |
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES</del>       | Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb    | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES</del>      |
| <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>         | Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb    | <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>        |
| <del>NURSERY FINISHES</del>      | Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar   | <del>NURSERY FINISHES</del>     |
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>   | Weds 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar   | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>  |
| <del>INSET DAY 5</del>           | Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr    | <del>INSET DAY 5</del>          |
| <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>         | Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr   | <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>        |
| <del>MAYDAY BANK HOLIDAY</del>   | Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> May     | <del>MAYDAY BANK HOLIDAY</del>  |
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES</del>       | Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May    | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES</del>      |
| <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>         | Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June    | <del>SCHOOL STARTS</del>        |
| <del>INSET DAY 6</del>           | Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> June   | <del>INSET DAY 6</del>          |
| <del>NURSERY FINISHES</del>      | Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | <del>NURSERY FINISHES</del>     |
| <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>   | Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> July   | <del>SCHOOL FINISHES 2PM</del>  |

*Please note these dates are subject to change*