

As we love, we flourish
As we flourish, we aspire
As we aspire, we achieve
Together, we are a family



Newsletter
10th December 21



St Mary's CE Primary School, N8

Jesus said: Love one another as I have loved you - John 15:12

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow – what a busy couple of weeks it has been despite the challenges being thrown at us from the threat of ever-increasing Covid cases. Wonderfully, we managed to hold the Christmas Fair last week at Rectory Gardens. My thanks to the entire PSA, and particularly Susie Holt who steered the parents and staff effortlessly to organise and lead a variety of festive and fun Christmas activities. Thank you if you came along to support this event and helped the PSA in its fund-raising efforts for your children.

At Church Lane this week, I'm sure for those of you who watched the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity productions, either in person or virtually, that you were impressed by the children's performances. They were nothing short of fabulous! My thanks to the entire staff team too for putting these productions together so well and in such a short timeframe.

It was equally busy at Rectory Gardens this week with a range of fabulous music concerts where children across Years 4 – 6 demonstrated their skillful playing of a variety of musical instruments, including the violin, guitar, trumpets, trombone and of course their beautiful voices. Next week, on Wednesday, children at Rectory Gardens will be performing a Christmas Service in the school hall. Unfortunately however, and owing to the spread of the Covid virus, parents will not be able to attend this performance. Instead, a link has been sent out for you to watch the production via Zoom. Please note the **new start time of the service is 1.45pm. The Zoom link will be open from 1.30pm.**

Other fun and festive events include today's Christmas Jumper Day, where children will also be thinking about others as we raise funds for the charity 'Save the Children'. On Monday, there will be a sponsored Santa Fun Run organized by the wonderful Mr Oakley, Mr Frostie's show at Church Lane on Tuesday, Christmas dinner on Wednesday, and the much anticipated class Christmas parties on Thursday.

Finally, we will continue to keep as Covid-secure as we can and families should be reminded that the government now recommends testing using lateral flow device (LFD) tests if you are going to visit a person at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or if you know you are going to be in a crowded or enclosed space. I will write to you at the end of next week with a short round up of information, but in the meantime, do please make a note of all the events, information and reminders below and have a peaceful weekend.

Best wishes and please stay safe,

Calvin Henry
Headteacher

Information & Reminders

School Christmas events

- Mon 13th Dec Santa Run – get your sponsorship forms filled in!
- Tues 14th Dec Mr Frostie show at Church Lane
- Wed 15th Dec Christmas Dinner Day
- Wed 15th Dec Rectory Gardens Christmas Service – 1.45pm via Zoom (link will open from 1.30pm)
- Thur 16th Dec Class parties – teachers will let you know what is required
- Fri 17th Dec Last day of term – 3.15pm RG pick up, 3.30pm CL pick up
- Tues 4th Jan Staff Inset/training day – no children at school
- Wed 5th Jan Children return to school



Christmas Dinner

Last chance to request a Christmas lunch for your **packed lunch child** – please let the school office know.



Clubs

- Breakfast & After School Club will run up to and including Friday 17th December and will start again on Wed 5th January 2022.
- All other clubs (sports/gymnastics/karate etc.) have finished for the term and will restart in week commencing 10th January 2022.

Church Christmas Events

Here is list of events and services that are happening in the parish this Christmas:

- Sat 18th December at 6pm – Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Tower
- Sun 19th December at 6pm - Lessons and Carols at Hornsey Parish Church
- Fri 24th December – Crib Services
 - 10am for preschoolers and toddlers
 - 2pm for 4 -7 year olds
 - 4pm for everyone else
 - Older siblings are welcome to come to earlier services
- Fri 24th December 11.30pm – Midnight Mass at Hornsey Parish Church
- Sat 25th December 10.30am – Christmas Day Eucharist at Hornsey Parish Church



Reception places for September 2022

Reminder that Nursery parents and St Mary's families with young siblings must apply for Reception places **by 15th January 2022**. Please see the information on our website. <https://www.stmarysn8.co.uk/admissions/>. Any questions, do please contact Lorraine Christou in the Church Lane office.



School Money

Please note that the School Money payment system will be down for scheduled maintenance from 4pm on 21st December to 24th December and will not be available to take payments during that time. The good news is that they are trying to link with ApplePay shortly after that. We will keep you posted as we receive more information.

Families entitled to Free School Meals

A reminder that families entitled to Free School Meals can book holiday activities from the email sent earlier in the week. If you haven't received the email contact swalker@stmarysn8.co.uk. Any queries regarding making a booking please contact:

Haringey Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Tel: 020 8489 4629

Email - hafprogramme@haringey.gov.uk Website - www.haringey.gov.uk/haf



Haringey Fun

Haringey Council has a section filled with information and activities that are taking place over the Christmas holidays. Click on the link to find out more.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/whatsonsearch>

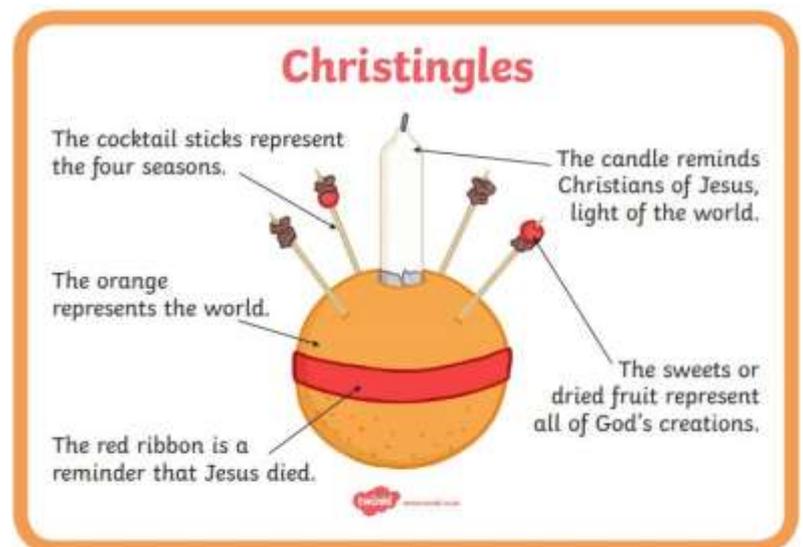


And in other news.....

The School Council

At the PSA Christmas Fair, the School Council children enjoyed running a stall making Christingles for a selected charity - The Children's Society and they raised £63. Special thank you to Milo and Yemisi who led the team and explained all about the charity to the families who attended the fair. Well done to you all!

If you want to make Christingles at home, see below but please ensure there is adult supervision at all times! You will need **an orange, a candle, some tin foil, red ribbon, cocktail sticks, dried fruit or sweets, and a pair of scissors**. Fasten a red ribbon around the orange. Cut a small cross into the top of the orange and place a square of tin foil over it (to catch the candle wax as it drops), insert the candle into the cross you have made in the orange and decorate the orange with sweet adorned cocktail sticks.



Jigsaw journal competition

Ms Simmons recently held a competition as part of the launch into the Jigsaw PSHE curriculum. The children decorated their Jigsaw Journals and here are some of the winners showing their fantastic designs. Well done all!



Useful Covid links – please review

Families may find these two links useful, especially the second one which translates COVID information in to many different languages.

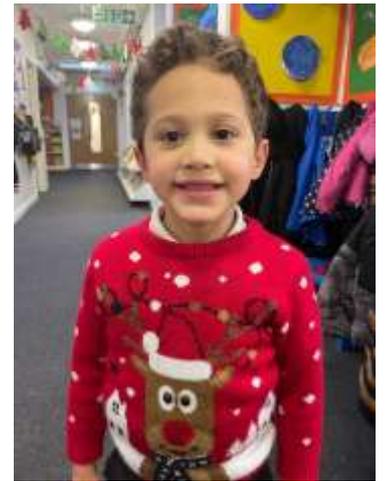
[How to do a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow test at home or at a test site - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[TRANSLATED HEALTH INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS - Doctors of the World](#)



Selection of Christmas photos





Nursery	The children have enjoyed participating in lots of fun Christmas activities and have done an amazing job making paper chains to decorate Nursery. They made beaded decorations for the tree as well as some beautiful Christmas cards. They have been enjoying finding out more about Christmas traditions and the Nativity story. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come to the Nursery show - it was a real highlight for many of the children.
Reception	The children have been creating their new characters and settings to innovate their own versions of <i>The Three Billy Goats Gruff</i> . In phonics, they have almost finished learning their phase 2 sounds learning the sounds 'll' and 'le'. In maths, the focus has been on recapping the properties of simple 2D shapes. In Topic and RE, the children have learned about the Advent period, including learning about the special foods that Christians share with each other. They so enjoyed preparing for and performing for parents and carers at their fabulous Nativity show.
Year 1	In maths, the children have been practising counting in tens and making equal groups in readiness for learning the 2, 5, 10 times tables. In English, they have been reading a festive story, <i>Jingle Bells</i> by Nick Butterworth, and practising writing conversations and letters between two main characters; Angus, the naughty cat and Lottie, and Jack the spirited mice. They have enjoyed learning new sounds in phonics and practising them during their spelling practise each morning. The children have also been learning about the life and achievements of Rosa Parks as part of their Superhero topic. Thank you to Freya's mum who came in to teach a special lesson on the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.
Year 2	The children have enjoyed their 'Magnificent Monarchs' topic, learning all about the reign of Queen Victoria and the British Empire. In English, they have been looking at the structure of formal letter writing, prefixes and expanded noun phrases, working with the text <i>There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Trout</i> . In maths, they are revisiting the properties of 2D shapes. In science, they are investigating flexible materials and their uses and in RE, they are looking at how the light of Christmas is represented in art.
Year 3	The children are enjoying the cross-curricular links with English and their history topic of Ancient Egypt. They have been finding out about how the 'water-boy' helped Howard Carter to discover Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings. They also learnt about the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms of Egypt, how the pyramids were built and how the Egyptian Gods and Goddesses influenced people's lives at the time and learnt about mummification rituals and the belief in the Afterlife. In maths, the focus has been on learning about quarter, half, three quarter and full turns, positions and directions using clockwise and anticlockwise. They have also looked at angles in shapes and identified right angles, obtuse and acute angles. In RE, they have continued the focus on Advent and Epiphany leading up to the birth of Christ.
Year 4	The children have continued preparing to write their reports on the Romans and producing much research and evidence which will all add towards the final task. In science, they have conducted an experiment investigating the effect different liquids have on teeth enamel. Instead of human teeth, the children used eggs in their investigating, as egg shell is very similar to teeth enamel. Before recording their results, they will be observing the solutions over two days and comparing their finding to their hypothesis. In maths, the children are focused on adding more than one fraction and are continuing to build their knowledge and understanding of multiplication.
Year 5	In maths, the children continued to explore fractions and converting fractions into mixed numbers as well as converting measurements and looking at why measurements are important in real life. The children's writing has been inspired by fascinating inventions and they are now innovating an existing invention, 'The Teacher Pleaser Machine', to create their own using causal conjunctions, modal verbs and exciting technical language. In science, they continue to learn about and experiment with forces, making paper planes for homework for an air resistance competition this week.
Year 6	In English, the children have written some incredible stories based on the book <i>The Ice Bear</i> , with particular reference to grammar. They have also been learning about the differences between the rich and poor people's lifestyles in Tudor times. This will help the children write their non-chronological report about the Tudors early next term. In maths, they have continued to work on fractions with regular problem solving and reasoning questions to deepen their understanding. In RE, they enjoyed a visit from Nina (part of our church team) in which they explored 'How Christians advertise Christmas' which prompted some very interesting discussions.



Parent School Association (PSA) News

Dear Families,

We are writing to say a huge thank you for supporting St Mary's Christmas Fair. Without all you volunteers - parents, carers and members of staff - we would not have been able to run such a busy and successful event.

We were delighted to receive so many donations to the tombola, the jars, the cakes and snacks and toys, books and gifts - you did St Mary's proud with your generosity. The money raised is helping to fund the panto trip and a magic show. With budget cuts hitting schools hard, every penny the PSA raises really helps to make a difference to our children's lives.

We launched Luna's Quest at the fair - if you didn't manage to get a booklet, there's still plenty of time to get one before the end of term. This is a beautiful book of activities specially made for children at St Mary's and will be a lovely thing to do over the holidays - especially if we face further restrictions.

Also remember we have our Santa fun run on Monday - what a lovely energetic start to the week!

Finally, we still have some class rep vacancies. If you're a parent of a child in Y1 Tangerine, Y2 Buttercup, Y3 Emerald, Y4 Crimson, Y5 Turquoise and Y6 Amethyst, please do consider volunteering. You can contact Hilary Grierson on hilarygrierson@icloud.com

St Mary's PSA

A big thanks to all our benefactors that made our Christmas raffle possible this year!



St Mary's C.E. Primary School



St Mary's PSA



MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2021

**Please collect sponsorship to
raise funds for school.**

Sponsorship forms have been sent home via the children to all families!

St Mary's PSA