



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Newsletter: 16th December 2022

Dear Parents, carers, pupils, staff and governors

'May the joy of the Gospel be always in our hearts, especially this Christmas.' Pope Francis

A Special Visitor

On Thursday 15th December a very special visitor paid a surprise visit to St. Mary of the Angels - Father Christmas! Each class visited Santa in his magical Christmas grotto to sing him a Christmas song and wish him a Merry Christmas. A very special thank you to Mrs Sodaro and Mrs Murphy who decorated the grotto so that Father Christmas would feel at home. Thank you Father Christmas for visiting us and for the lovely gifts for each and every child!

Nativities and Carol Service

We were delighted that so many of you could join us for the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Nativities and the Key Stage 2 Carol Service. We are blessed with a dedicated team of staff who worked so hard to ensure that the scene was set to showcase the children's marvellous singing and acting and to give all gathered a warm welcome. The children were so excited to perform for you and truly put on a wonderful show. We are so very proud of each and every child for their wonderful performances. Please click [here](#) to view a selection of pictures from the nativities and Carol Service.

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 8th December the children were treated to a fabulous Christmas lunch. A special thank you to Mr. Vacarri, Mrs Coldham, Mrs Benhalima and Ms Kadi who do such a splendid job all year round providing healthy and delicious meals for the children and staff. The children thoroughly enjoyed their special lunch at school as did the staff team earlier this week.

Faith in Action

An essential part of our Advent journey is thinking of others and we would like to thank you once again for your generosity this year including donations for our Reverse Advent Calendar for Westbourne Park Pantry, donations of coats and jackets for the Calling London Winter Coat campaign and cash donations to St John's Hospice on Christmas Jumper day which raised an amazing £193. Thank you! Our Mini Vinnies and Liturgy Leaders also gave up their time this week to pack food packages for Meanwhile Gardens. A special thank you to Albie's Mum in Year 3 for helping to organise this.

Sensory Room and Playground Projects

We are delighted to inform you that our new Sensory Room is completed thanks to a grant of £14,000 from the St Marylebone Educational Foundation. We look forward to sharing more information with you early next term about how we plan to use this amazing space to support children in our school.

The improvements to the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 playground have taken much longer than expected which has been disappointing. We have made our concerns re the delays known to the main contractor who has agreed to provide a new shelter for the terraced area in the Key Stage 2 playground for free. Whilst there are a couple of items of play equipment still on order, the playground will be handed back to the school today so we can use the space again from the start of the new term. A reminder that this project was funded by £94,000 of Section 106 funding by Westminster City.

Thank you for complying with the recent changes to drop and pick-ups over the last few weeks of term. Barring more snow and ice, we plan to be back to the usual start and end of day routines next term.

Foundation Stage Resource Request

We would like to ask parents and carers for donations to support our learning environment in Foundation Stage. We are looking for photo frames, shells, kitchen equipment (pots, pans, utensils), bottle tops, bags of soil, wicker baskets (small and large), dress up clothing (scarfs, traditional cultural clothing) and role play sets (doctor/nurse/police etc). All items should be in good condition and dropped off at the front office. These items may seem unusual play items, but they can be used in endless different ways, allowing children to use their imagination whilst playing and exploring.

Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2022

This year, The Reading Agency has teamed up with the Science Museum Group for a fantastic Winter Reading Challenge with The Gadgeteers who many of you will remember from the Summer Reading Challenge. Children of all ages are invited to join the Gadgeteers as they use their ingenuity and creativity to keep everyone entertained during a snowstorm. Get ready for cool do-it-at-home experiments and the best reading activities around as you complete your very own Winter Mini Challenge. Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple: all you have to do is read at least three books between **1 December 2022** and **20 February 2023**. You can choose any books you like – fact books, fiction, joke books, picture books, eBooks, audio books – the choice is yours! Once you've read a book, add it to your website profile and write a review to let everyone know what you thought. Add 3 books or more to complete the Winter Mini Challenge and unlock a brand new certificate and a limited-edition virtual badge! There is even a handy Reading Record for you to print out and note down your favourite winter reads. Remember to log your books online to unlock virtual rewards too! [CLICK HERE to get yours!](#) [Click here](#) or more information about the Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2022.



Free School Meals: Years 3 to 6

Last week we shared a letter from the leader and deputy leader of Westminster City Council with parents/carers of pupils in Key Stage 2 regarding the council's offer of free school lunches in term time for all primary-aged children in Key Stage 2. This means that if you have a child in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and have been paying for school lunches, you no longer have to pay as of 4th January 2023. The council have pledged that this offer will remain in place until at least the summer of 2024 in the first instance. The school office will be in touch with you in the new year if your meals account is in credit or if you have an outstanding balance to pay. The letter is attached for your information.

A reminder that if you think you are eligible for means tested free school meals you should still apply as, if you are eligible, you will have access to free activities & food vouchers during the school holidays. Please click [here](#) so check your eligibility.

After School Clubs and Breakfast Club

Booking is now open for after school clubs for Term 3 and clubs start the week beginning **9th January 2022**. Breakfast Club will be open as usual on the first day of term.

Attendance

Congratulations to the 34 children across the school who achieved 100% attendance in Term 2. All were awarded a special certificate today. We hope that all children will receive a certificate at least once over the course of the school year as we award the certificate at the end of every half term.

Prayer and Worship

[Click here](#) to read the Christmas edition of the Wednesday Word. Ten Ten's December newsletter is also available for you to read [here](#).

Term 3

School reopens for pupils on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:

As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to
welcome you now with love.

Amen

And finally...

We wish you and your loved ones a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher (Acting)