



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Newsletter: Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Anti-Bullying Week: 13th - 17th November

Last week we celebrated Anti-bullying Week at St. Mary of the Angels. The theme this year was **'Make A Noise About Bullying'**. Our school's **'STOP'** acronym continues to support pupils, staff and parents/carers in identifying and preventing/stopping bullying. Thank you to Ms Jacobs from QPR who delivered a wonderful assembly and worked with our Year 5 and Year 6 classes in order to shine a spotlight on bullying and to encourage children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year.

Year 5 Residential Trip: Sayers Croft 13th-15th November

Our Year 5 children had an action packed three days at Sayers Croft last week. They took part in a range of team building and adventurous activities including orienteering, archery and climbing. We are incredibly proud of how well they supported each other and behaved – they are a credit to the school and their families. Of course, the trip wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our staff who give up their time with family and friends to look after the pupils. A big thank you therefore to Miss Smaller, Miss O'Brien and Miss Miller and to all of the parents who passed on their thanks to the staff in person or by email. Your kind words are much appreciated.

Hummingbirds Assembly: Thursday 23rd November

Thank you to the pupils and staff in the Hummingbirds Class who invited their parent/carers to gather and join them in prayer and thanks at their class assembly on Thursday. The assembly was based on World Kindness Day linked to Anti-Bullying Week. The children in class have been reading 'Have you Filled a Bucket Today?' and have been exploring ways in which they can be bucket fillers! The children reminded us of scripture from Matthew 7:13: *Do for others as you would want them to do for you.* Thank you, Ms McNab and Hummingbirds, for a beautiful assembly.



Advent: A Season of Giving

Pope Francis tells us that 'the measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need'. Our school community continues to come together to support those less fortunate than us, whether the need is local, national or further afield. Some of our Advent almsgiving activities, chosen with the help of our team of Mini Vinnies, are detailed below and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

Caritas Advent Giving Calendar

Inspired by Pope Francis, we are asking families to take part in our **'Caritas Advent Giving Calendar'** project this Advent. The Caritas Food Collective are a project working to tackle food poverty in the Diocese of Westminster. Each class has been assigned an item that the foodbank requires from our 'Advent Giving Calendar.' We invite the children to bring in their donations on the date assigned to their class. Each item will then be put together and donated to **Westbourne Park Pantry**.

Class	Item	Date to be brought in
Ducklings	Tea or Coffee	4/12/23
Robins	Tinned Puddings/Jam	4/12/23
Goldfinches	Tinned fruit/vegetables	5/12/23
Hummingbirds	Tinned meals (spaghetti, chicken or veg curries, chilli)	5/12/23
Kingfishers	Tinned Sauces/tinned fish	5/12/23
Kestrels	Long life juice or long life milk	7/12/23
Swallows	Cereal	7/12/23
Hérons	Rice/Pasta	8/12/23
Swans	Biscuits	8/12/23
School Staff	Toiletries	6/12/23

Christmas Jumper Day

On **Thursday 7th December** pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper and make a **£2 donation** to help support St John's Hospice in St John's Wood. The hospice provides specialised palliative care to more than 4,000 terminally-ill patients and their families every year and relies on voluntary donations to continue its essential work in our community. Last year, we donated an amazing £210.75 to the hospice. Please join us on Thursday 7th December and encourage your child to wear a Christmas jumper or decorate a jumper with festive decorations such as tinsel or paper snowflakes. Thank you in advance for your support.

Traveling Crib

This is an exciting activity for EYFS and KS1 during Advent to help prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. More information to follow next week.

Christmas Movie Night

Reminder that we will be having our annual Christmas Movie night on Friday 8th December. More information will be sent out next week.

Christmas Lunch

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 13th December. If your child has a packed lunch but would like to have a traditional Christmas lunch on this day, then please inform Ms Chadwick no later than Friday 8st December by emailing office@stmaryangels.co.uk

Whole School Mass-The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

We now look forward joining parishioners to celebrate Mass for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Friday 8th December at St. Mary of the Angels Church at 11am. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us.

Message from Mgr. Keith

Recently Margaret Wickware, our parish catechist, and I paid a visit to Year 6 to talk about the Eucharist and prepare pupils for a visit to the Church when they will have the opportunity to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for a few minutes, with prayers led by Margaret and me. I will also be visiting the school soon to talk to Year 5 pupils about the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and give them the opportunity to go to Confession in the first week of Advent. Any parents who would like to come too are welcome!

Wigmore Hall: Family Concert - [Catapluf's Musical Journey](#)

As part of our [Partner Schools Programme](#) with Wigmore Hall, we are delighted to announce that Wigmore Hall are offering our school an allocation of 40 free tickets for a family concert on **Saturday, 2nd Dec 2023 at 2pm**.

The event is suitable for children aged 7+ and tickets are free (normally £12 for adults and £10 for children). Please note, all children must be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to attend please email Ms Chadwick at office@stmaryangels.co.uk no later than 9.30am on Monday 27th November and include the following information in your message:

- Subject: Wigmore Hall
- Names and address of all you would like to attend (first name and last name)

Please note that the tickets are limited and will be given to families on a first come first served basis. We will email you to confirm if your family have been allocated tickets. If you do not receive any further communication with the school then unfortunately you and your family will not have secured tickets. Wigmore Hall will be offering our school and pupils many more opportunities to join them as we continue with the partner school programme.

Year 1 Phonics Meeting

You are warmly invited to a Phonics Meeting for parents/carers of pupils in Goldfinches on Friday 1st December at 3pm in the school hall. Learning to read is an exciting journey for your child and we look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your child learns the skills necessary to help them to learn to read.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all those of you who have completed the online survey. If you haven't already completed the survey you can do so by clicking [here](#) or on the link below. The closing date for responses is Friday 1st December at midday.

<https://forms.gle/DkMJ8iFXo7Kooxx49>

Advent & Christmas Reminder

Preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate the Good News of Jesus' birth is such an important part of our school and liturgical year. We very much look forward to bringing our school together during the season of Advent as follows:

Wednesday 29th November	Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral (Year 6/ Pupil Chaplaincy Team only)
Wednesday 6th December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service 2:00pm at St. Mary of Angels Church
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December	The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 11am (Whole School Mass)
Friday 8th December	Christmas Movie Night (more information to follow)
Tuesday 12th December	Foundation Stage Nativity 9.30am
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas Lunch for children (own clothes day)
Tuesday 19th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Special visitor to the school
Thursday 21st December	End of Term 2/School closes at 1.30pm for Christmas Holidays
Monday 8th January	School closed – staff development & training
Tuesday 9 th January	School opens: Start of Term 3

Calling London Winter Coat Campaign

Thank you to everyone who donated a winter coat, fleece or jacket to the Winter Coat Campaign. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.



Prayer and Worship

Ten Ten's November newsletter is now available for you to read [here](#) or by visiting the [Prayer and Worship](#) for Home section of the school website.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher