



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

Shrewsbury Road, Bayswater, London W2 5PR
Telephone: 020 7792 1883 Email: office@stmaryangels.co.uk
Website: www.stmaryangels.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Mary Wilson

Newsletter: Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

'Look North More Often' Poetry Workshop: Swans Class

What a week it has been at St Mary of the Angels! Earlier this term, The Poetry Society facilitated a day of free writing and performance workshops to our Year 6 pupils in the Swans class. Students worked with acclaimed poet Coral Rumble. During the workshop, the children learned about the history of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, which the people of Norway have given to the people of London every year since 1947 in gratitude for Britain's support for Norway during World War II.

Last night, three children chosen by Coral read a poem at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square. Beatriz, Tilly-Jo and Alexander performed beautifully in front of hundreds of people, as well as the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Patricia McAllister.



We are extremely proud of the children for representing our school in such a marvellous way. You'll be able to listen to their rendition of the poem in a podcast from The Poetry Society soon. The tree will be up in Trafalgar Square until 6 January 2024 and the poem will be available to read around its base. The poem can also be read here: <https://poetrysociety.org.uk/poems/t-is-for-tree/>

Police Visit: Thursday 30th November

Last week, we were delighted to welcome PC Mo and PC Lewis to our school to lead a special assembly about Stranger Danger and Walking Safely for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils and staff. The children really engaged well with the assembly and were very excited to question the Police Officers about their line of work.

Year 1 Phonics Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Year 1 Phonics Meeting on Friday 1st December in the school hall. If you were not able to attend the session, then please [click here](#) to learn more about how phonics is taught in Key Stage One and to know more about the Phonics Screen Check which will take place in the summer term for Year 1.

A.I.M High Writing Workshop: Monday 4th December

This week, four UKS2 students attended an A.I.M. High Writing Day at St. Joseph's RC Primary School. The literacy workshop provided a wonderful opportunity for children to delve deeper and master greater challenges in writing. The event was run by award-winning author and performance poet Neal Zetter. The children were a credit to our school, and Neal Zetter was very impressed with the effort and talents of our students.



Key Stage Two Carol Service: Wednesday 6th December

We were treated to the divine singing of our KS2 children this week, as we celebrated this special time of Advent with our carol service, held in St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church. This year, we had the pleasure of hearing our newly formed choir perform several songs, led by our singing teacher Ms Murphy. Each class sang their carols beautifully, bringing joy and hope to the congregation. Well done also to the readers and actors, who told the Nativity story in a spectacular way. Thank you to parents, family and Fr. Keith who joined us for this special event.

We now look forward to seeing our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils perform in the next two weeks. Please see the dates below for a reminder of your child's performance.

Whole School Mass: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Thank you to our parish family, staff and pupils who attended Mass this morning for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by Mgr. Keith. The attentiveness and reverence the children showed in Mass is a credit to their parents and the school. Fr. Keith also praised the children for their beautiful singing - all hymns were carefully selected in order to give thanks to Our Lady.

Christmas Movie Night

A big thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Christmas Movie Night this evening. We raised £680 for our school. All funds raised will go towards the cost of our school's annual subscription to ZSL's Education Access Scheme, open to schools in Westminster and Camden only. We are now booking trips in for the spring and summer terms and very much hope each class will be able to visit more than once to take full advantage of the scheme.

Thank you also to all of the school staff who helped with the planning and preparation for the event and who stayed behind to supervise the children.

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 Advent Giving 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 this Thursday which raised an amazing £214.50.

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. Thank you once again!

Message From Fr. Keith

Dear children and parents, it was wonderful to be with you for this year's Carol Service, as inspiring as always, even though I got the wrong start time! It has also been a great pleasure to have Year Six coming in for Eucharistic Adoration, Year Five for Confession, and the whole school for the Feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. Let's continue to make the most of this beautiful season of Advent when we open our hearts and our lives to the baby Jesus who comes to us as a very poor and humble child, like so many poor children in the world today for whom we pray especially at Christmas. God bless you all.

Christmas Lunch

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch in school on Wednesday 13th December. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers alongside their school uniform, as part of the celebrations.

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:

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

Prayer and Worship

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

Prayer

O Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace,
come and save your people.
Joy of every heart,
strength of those who are poor,
come quickly to help us.
Prince of Peace,
teach the lion and the little lamb,

teach the cat and the mouse,
the hawk and the tiny bird,
teach everyone who doesn't get along
to live in peace.

Amen

Wishing you a happy and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher