



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

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Newsletter: 21st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

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

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. Please remember to look at our school's website to view a selection of pictures from recent events.

A Message from Fr. Keith

Dear Children, I wish you and your families a very joyful Christmas celebration and lots of happiness in the New Year. Remember that Jesus makes us happy by setting aside his glory and coming to live among us as a poor child, and do your best to think of others this Christmas, especially those among your family or friends who are in any kind of distress, and do your best to reach out to them with love. And of course, pray for those children who are suffering so much this Christmas, for example in Israel and Palestine. God bless you! Fr. Keith



A Special Visitor

On Wednesday 20th December Father Christmas paid us a surprise visit! Each class visited him in his magical Christmas grotto, welcoming him with a Christmas song and wishing him a Merry Christmas. A very special thank you to Mrs Sodaro and Mrs Murphy who decorated the grotto to ensure Father Christmas felt at home. Thank you Father Christmas for visiting us and for the lovely gift of a book for each and every child!

Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 13th 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 festive lunch as did the staff team the following day.

Wigmore Hall: The Nutcracker Project

On Thursday 13th December, Key Stage 1 pupils were given the opportunity to work alongside talented musicians from Wigmore Hall as part of our continued participation in the Partner Schools Programme. The children were treated to a Journey through musical storyland, where the children's class text *The Nutcracker* was re-imagined with magical music performed by the musicians from Wigmore Hall. More news to follow in the New Year re our plans to further enhance our cultural offer.

Wigmore Hall: £1 Ticket Scheme

We are pleased to announce that as part of this partnership, we continue to benefit from a subsidised ticket scheme which offers the opportunity for our families to purchase £1 tickets to a range of family events held at Wigmore Hall. You can apply to the scheme by quoting the school name. For further information please see the attachment sent with this newsletter.

Faith in Action

'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' St. Teresa of Calcutta

This has truly been demonstrated at St. Mary of the Angels this Advent as we remembered those people in our local community who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for your generosity in supporting all our charities this Advent namely the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar, Winter Coat Campaign and cash donations to St. John's Hospice on Christmas Jumper Day.

Thank you also to our wonderful Caritas Ambassadors who gave up their time last week to deliver some of the goods donated to Westbourne Park Pantry. Whilst at the pantry the children were given a tour and the opportunity to ask the organisers and volunteers questions about the day-to-day running of the pantry.

After School Clubs

Booking for after school clubs for Term 3 is now open on www.schoolgateway.com. Clubs start the week beginning 15th January.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be open as usual on Tuesday 9th January.



Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2023

Following the brilliant success of the Summer Reading Challenge, the **Winter Mini Challenge** is now up and running and will be open until 19th February. The Ready, Set, Read! theme encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter break. Join the six characters as they have fun on a winter walk to the library and spark a love of reading even in the most reluctant of readers. Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December 2023 and 19 February 2024 and add them to their online profile at the [Winter Mini Challenge website](#). Reaching their reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep. You can also find lots of other things of interest on [The Reading Agencies](#) website, including book reviews, activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a Department for Education (DfE) funded initiative that provides free activities and food provision for children aged 4 to 16 eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) during the Easter, Summer and Christmas Holidays. Westminster City Council offer a HAF Programme, providing an array of enriching and fun activities for local young people throughout the school holidays. For further information please click [here](#).

Attendance

Congratulations to the 51 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.

Pupil Voice: Pupil Survey November 2023

The results of our recent Pupil Survey have been published on the school website and can be found by clicking [here](#). The results of the recent Parent/Carers Survey will be published early next term.

Save the Date! New Years' Disco

We are delighted to announce the return of the children's New Years' Disco which will take place after school on Friday 26th January. More information to follow!

New Years' Mass

We look forward joining parishioners on Friday 12th January at St. Mary of the Angels Church at 11am to celebrate a New Years' Mass. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us.

Thank you and farewell

As parents & carers of children in Kingfishers class are already aware, Miss Miller is leaving us today to return home to Australia. We thank Miss Miller for all she has done during her time with us and wish her all the best for the future. Miss Martin, who has been our regular cover teacher this term, is taking over as Kingfishers class teacher and has worked closely with Miss Miller to ensure a smooth handover.

Congratulations

We are delighted to share that Miss McNab will be getting married during the Christmas holidays and will be returning to us as Mrs Connery in January. We wish her and Mr Connery much happiness for the future.

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 Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Assemblies and Prayer Services

Please click [here](#) for upcoming dates for the Spring term.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As Advent draws to a close and the Christmas season begins, we pray that the children's wondrous retelling of the Nativity in our carol service and plays have reminded you of the Lord's great love for you. Be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones during this Christmas season.

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hough

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher