



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

CEO: Miss L. O'Callaghan

www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

Sydenham Road, Croydon, CR0 2EW

Tel: 020 8688 4893

Head of School: Mr. A. J. McDonald

Email: office@st-mary-jun.croydon.sch.uk

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Newsletter 15

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Our school term ends as the most important part of Advent comes into focus. In this Sunday's Gospel St Luke describes The Visitation, a beautiful section of scripture that is the basis for part of the Hail Mary prayer. We have been thinking about this in assembly and asking the children to consider the role of Elizabeth and Mary, and how willing they both were to carry out God's plan.

Carols by Candlelight

Thank-you to all the parents who joined us last Friday afternoon to celebrate with Christmas Carols, Christmas Hymns and Christmas Songs. Your support is greatly appreciated by the teachers and children. Whilst it is fun to share the joy of Christmas and we did sing two secular songs this year, I do think that it is so important that we drew our celebration back together with a prayer reflecting on the Gospel from last week. Thank-you to Suri and Chidiuto, our head girl and boy, for ending the afternoon so well, and to Miss Attwell for organising the concert.

Nativity Play

The children of Year 4 can feel really proud of their Nativity Play, which they presented to their parents on Tuesday morning. They acted, danced and sang their way through the Christmas story and it covered every event from the two Gospels, from the Visitation to the Flight into Egypt. Particular recognition is important for Zachary, who stepped in at the last minute to read a part. We thank Mr Chappell, Mrs Ottlyk and Miss Llewellyn who helped the children prepare for their roles.

Christmas Lunch

Many thanks to Mrs Fleming and her Nourish team who cooked such a tasty Christmas lunch on Wednesday. In total with the meals provided for the Infant children and staff, close to 500 meals were produced, which is quite a feat of planning.

Christmas Tree Decoration competition

Thank-you to all the children that made beautiful decorations for the Christmas Tree at the entrance to the school. Mrs Chappell has judged the entries and the winners are Govind, Jessita and Ivy.

Spring Term 2025

After-school swimming lessons start on Wednesday 8th January when we return.

Swim Squad recommences on Thursday 9th January.

Homework Club will be open from Tuesday 7th January.

Next term we will not be running Friday Football until the darkest of the winter days have passed. Mr Chappell will inform the Football Squad when Tuesday training sessions will recommence.

'Aspire not to have more but to be more'



Another reason
to choose us.



Achievement Certificates

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to All of Year 3, All of Year 4, All of 5B, Kivein in 5C, Govind in 6G and Mokshitha in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Leon in 3E. The swimmer of the term is Zachary in 5B.

I end this final newsletter of 2024 with a big thank-you. The support of all of you makes the school a joyful place to work. **On behalf of all the staff, many thanks as well for the generous gifts that the teachers and teaching assistants have received from the children.**

I wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

We welcome the children back on **Tuesday 7th January 2025.**

Yours faithfully,

Andrew McDonald
Head of School

Health Advice for parents

Coronavirus

The World Health Organisation now considers the covid pandemic to not be a global health emergency. For advice and support if you suspect someone has covid, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

When using a test, check that it is a recent one that is set up to detect new strains of the virus.

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