

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS IS ON...!

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The focus for this newsletter is on events that are coming up between now and the end of term. Please add these to your diaries; it's going to be a busy few weeks!



### Infant and Junior productions December 2022:

Drama, singing and dancing rehearsals are underway for our Christmas productions. Every child in the school will be taking part as ever and we are looking forward to welcoming you to see them in action! We are delighted that after two years of recording and editing productions, all performances are will be live from the school hall. To accommodate an audience, we will be issuing tickets to ensure that the hall doesn't become overcrowded. This system is new to many parents and carers given the limitations caused by the pandemic. THERE WILL BE NO CHARGE FOR TICKETS. *There will be an offering for our expenses and for 'The Children's Society', with QR codes available to scan on the day.*

#### INFANT PRODUCTION 'SHEPHERDS DELIGHT'

by Dave Corbett

There will be 2 performances of the Infant Production on *Thursday 8th December at 2.00pm and 7.00pm.*

There is a total allocation of **2 tickets per family per performance**

We will send links via email, one for each performance, to enable you to book tickets via our online ticketing system (similar to the system used to book parent consultations)

Please note that children in the infants will go home after the 2pm production, either straight after the show if a parent is in the audience, or a 3.25pm as normal.

**Given that there will also be 7pm performance on 8<sup>th</sup> December, children in YR, Y1 and Y2 can come in a little later than usual, up to 10.00am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup>. This later arrival to school will be authorised.**

#### JUNIOR PRODUCTION 'BETHLEHEM BANDITS'

by Dave Corbett

There will be 2 performances of the Junior Production on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - both at 7pm.

**There will no longer be a 2pm performance.**

As there are more children in Years 3-6 there will be a **total allocation of 2 tickets per family to be used at either of the performances.**

We will send a link via email, one for each performance, to enable you to book tickets via our on line ticketing system (similar to the system used to book parent consultations)

We apologise if the junior production date change, compared with dates published originally, has caused any inconvenience. Informal feedback received indicated that the 2pm show is likely to have been less popular. The impact of this would mean that the majority of parents/carers, would try to come to the single 7pm evening show and because of capacity, it is likely that we would have been unable to accommodate them, so they'd potentially

miss it entirely. To even out the planned demand, we have decided to spread the shows to two evening performances instead.

- As space is limited and all children will have seen both the Infant and Junior performances, we ask siblings don't return to the evening performances. If you would like them to come, they will need a ticket from your total allocation.
- Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate a crèche, please arrange not to bring babies as they can disturb the performances.
- Children from nursery age and above welcome, but they will require a ticket from your allocation.
- Should there be any spare tickets for any of the performances we will let you know.
- ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRINGING AND COLLECTING CHILDREN WILL BE SENT OUT TO YOU BEFORE THE PERFORMANCES.

### Church Christmas Card Competition:

Many thanks to all the children who entered the competition. The Bishop of St. Albans was very impressed with the creativity and range of designs. He chose two second place designs that belonged to Emilia in Y6 (a) and Georgiana (b) in Y3. The design that has been chosen to be made into the Church Christmas card was created by Sabrina in Y6 (c). Many congratulations to Sabrina! The card will go to 3,000 homes in the church parish; do look out for it if you live locally.



### School Christmas Fayre: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 12-3pm

We are looking forward to our first Christmas fayre since December 2019. Please come along next Saturday to join in with some festive fun and some delicious food and drink. Our fundraising focus continues to be replacing the remaining classroom interactive whiteboards. Thank you to all of those who are working hard to prepare for the fayre.

Many thanks also to The Friends for paying for the children to have a panto experience in school. Before the end of term, all classes will watch a pre-recorded performance of Cinderella.



### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day: 8<sup>th</sup> December

On Thursday 8th December, millions of people up and down the country will come together – at their workplace, school or with friends – to make the world better with a sweater. We'd like to invite the children to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper along with their school uniform.

Here is our [St Mary's school Just Giving link](#) for Christmas Jumper Day.

- Remember, there's no need to buy a new jumper. You could upcycle an old jumper, get crafty or head to your local charity shop to buy a pre-loved festive knit.
- If you want to get creative and decorate a jumper, the Christmas Jumper Day website contains lots of fun craft ideas.

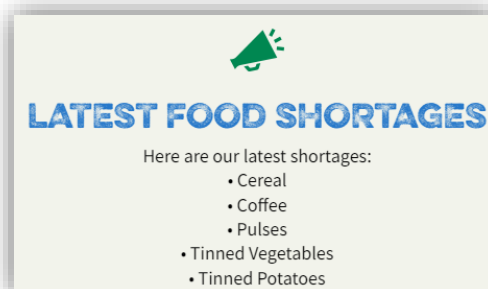


We'd appreciate your support to make Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day a success.

For upcycling inspiration and sustainability information: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/sustainability-and-inclusivity>

**Thinking beyond ourselves:** As we enter the period of Advent, we think of others who are less fortunate than us. Christmas can be a very challenging time for many families and individuals. At St. Mary's we like to advocate for change and support those that need it most.

- **Loneliness:** Many people experience loneliness at some point in their lives. For the majority, the feeling of loneliness passes, yet for some it can persist, undermining their well-being and impacting negatively on their quality of life. Addressing loneliness amongst older people is essential work for many charities. For that reason, I will be working with some children to create Christmas cards to send to charities that work with vulnerable older people, to help those individuals to know that they are being held in mind over the festive period. We hope this might bring a smile to the recipient's face.
- **Food Bank Support:** We'd like to invite you to bring donations to support families and individuals that rely on food banks. All of your donations will go to [Chipping Barnet Food Bank](#) in time for Christmas. During Harvest, when we arrived to hand over our donations, the shelves were completely empty. With schools closing for the holiday, and Christmas being a time for celebration and family, we'd like to think that our donations might make this period more comfortable and manageable. **Please bring any donations in a strong plastic bag on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.** Children should take these to class. Please give what you can.



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We'd appreciate your support to make Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day a success.

For frequently asked questions about Christmas Jumper Day:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/faq>

- for upcycling inspiration and sustainability information:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/sustainability-and-inclusivity>

- for more information on how your donations help:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/how-you-help>

### **Carol Service - St Mary's School and Church - Sunday 11th December at 4pm:**

We are really looking forward to a special carol service that will bring the church congregation and the school community together during Advent. This will involve staff, children, governors and parents, who will be reading during the service. We'll be singing traditional carols such as Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing and many more.

Please do come along to the service at St. Mary's Church if you can. It will be a really special, festive occasion that will celebrate the cohesion between St Mary's school and church.



### **There are various other events coming up at St. Mary's Church too:**

- This Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Advent Carols by Candlelight at 6pm, which will include song from the Young Voices choir.
- From 5-7pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December St. Mary's Church will be holding the St Mary's Christmas Fayre. There will be festive food and drinks, lovely items to buy and games to play – plus a chance to meet Father Christmas!
- On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December there will be carols at East Barnet War Memorial at 7pm, and in The Prince of Wales at 8pm.

- On Sunday 18th December at Church, there will be Christmas Carols by Candlelight, accompanied by choirs and an orchestra, at 4pm and 6pm.
- At 4pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Family Crib Service at 4pm.
- At 11:30pm on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December - First Eucharist of Christmas
- At 10am on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Eucharist on Christmas Day

### In other news:

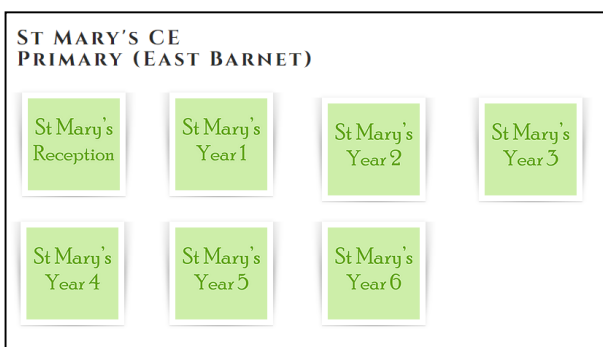
To encourage the children to practise recalling the times tables, we have signed all Junior pupils up to a **“Times Table World Cup”** competition. Up until **5<sup>th</sup> December**, we will be ‘playing against’ a number of local schools and hope that children in Y3 to Y6 can help us win and maybe qualify for the national finals! At this moment in time, we are TOP OF LEAGUE!!!!!!!!!!

### Book Donations:

Many thanks for donations of books from *The Makri family (Y1)*, *The Nicholson family (Y1)* and *The Thomas family (Y1 and 4)*.

Our Amazon Wish List can be accessed [here](#). We continue to add new books all the time. **If your child has a birthday coming up, donating a book might be a lovely way to celebrate!**

If parents would like to donate a book via Amazon, and they leave us a message on the page, then we will include a sticker inside the book to note who has made the donation.



As an alternative to the Amazon wish list, we have also worked with the Children's Book Shop in Muswell Hill to create a collection of St Mary's class wish lists:

<https://www.childrensbookshoplondon.com/wishlists>.

Once purchases are made, The Children's Bookshop will send books to school once a week for free, labelled with the child's name and class, but parents are also welcome to go into the shop and browse if they'd rather and take it with them immediately.

### Christmas St. Mary's School Dates – Summary:

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: School Christmas Fayre, 12-3pm
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: Food Bank Donations to school
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day **and** Infant Productions at 2pm and 7pm
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Production at 7pm both days
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas lunch at school
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Christingle service in school and last day of term.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 3PM ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.**



Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Mrs. Constantinou

