

# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## Newsletter No. 4

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

School has been a hive of festive activity over the last week, so we have lots to tell you about. We were so proud of all of the children in the infant classes for their incredible performances this week and we look forward to the junior productions next Monday and Tuesday.



### Food Bank Donations:

Thank you so much to you all for your incredibly generous and kind donations to the Chipping Barnet Food Bank. We have delivered over 100 bags. Your donations will make such a difference to individuals and families, particularly over the Christmas period. The Bible reminds us that *'it is more blessed to give than to receive'* (Acts 25:35).



### Combating loneliness with Christmas Cards:

We are working with Age UK Barnet and FIN Good Neighbour Service at East Barnet Baptist Church to help combat loneliness. The children have made Christmas Cards to bring a smile to those who might be spending Christmas alone. Next week, our choir will be presenting the cards and bringing some festive cheer to FiN members with their carol singing.



### Christmas Fayre: **AN AMAZING £4,176.93 RAISED!**

Very many thanks to everyone who helped to prepare and to those who came along to Saturday's Christmas Fayre. It was a great success. A special mention goes to children in crochet club who decided to make and sell their creations – they made £17 for Cancer Research.

All money raised at the fayre directly benefits children at our school, with our current priority being the replacement of the remaining interactive whiteboards in classrooms.



### Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day:

We raised an amazing £204 for Save the Children yesterday! [Click here](#) to see the difference that your support will make.

### Christmas Post Box:

For the first time since 2019, we have our whole school postal service up and running! Children can send a card to anyone in school by posting cards outside the office. Children will need to make sure they clearly write the recipient's **name and class on the envelope**. Let's just hope that the naughty elf doesn't meddle with the post...



### Christmas Parties:

Next **Thursday 15th December**, all classes will have a Christmas Party in school, which is very exciting!

Here are a few details:

- Children need to **come to school in their party outfit** (they will be in this all day, so please ensure they are comfortable in their clothing/footwear)
- Please **provide a small carton of drink and a regular sized packet of crisps in a named plastic bag**, for your child to enjoy at the party.



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

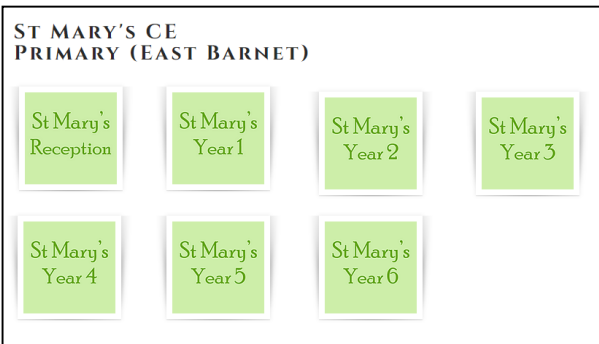
Please do come along to the service at St. Mary's Church this Sunday. It will be a really special, festive occasion that will celebrate the cohesion between St Mary's school and church.



### Book Donations:

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.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT ANY DONATIONS ARRIVE BY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

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

- 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
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Parties in 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.**
- School re-opens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.



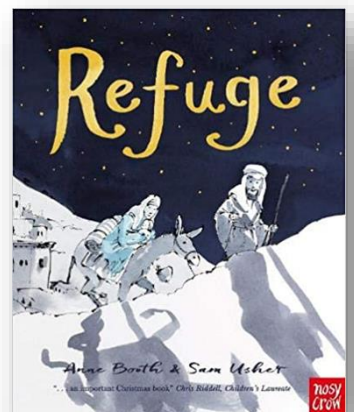
### Christmas Collective Worship:

In the past two weeks, we have been reflecting on Isaiah's prophecy and the sense of anticipation and preparation for the arrival of Jesus.

We have also heard the story of the journey of the Holy Family in this beautiful book which also raises the issue of seeking safety during dangerous circumstances. Of course, it was not the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem that made them refugees; it was their flight to Egypt in order to escape King Herod's orders.

We have prayed for anyone around the world who has had to leave their home or cannot return home because of fear or lack of safety.

We prayed that just like the Holy Family, that these individuals find the patience, hope and strength to carry on until they find refuge.





### Global Nativity:

Our St. Mary's family is richly diverse and multicultural. Therefore, we make every effort for the children to see themselves in all we do, because representation in learning really matters.

We have been sharing artwork from around the world in collective worship; each image depicts a nativity scene in different media. I'm sure you'll agree that they are all beautiful. I hope you enjoy them too.



Next week will be **very** busy here, so I am sending you all my Christmas wishes this week!  
Thank you for all of your support, it's been a wonderful term.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and happy, healthy start to 2023.  
Mrs. Constantinou

