



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

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## Newsletter No. 4

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

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 2023:

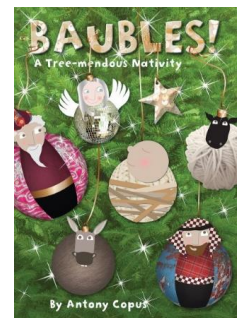
Drama, singing and dancing rehearsals are underway for our Christmas productions. Every child in the school will be taking part as ever and we are looking forward to welcoming you to see them in action!

To accommodate an audience, we will be issuing tickets to ensure that the hall doesn't become overcrowded.

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: 'Baubles' by Antony Copus

- There will be 2 performances of the Infant Production on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm.
- 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)
- Should there be any spare tickets for any of the performances they will be offered to Y2 parents and carers as a priority in the first instance.



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 6pm performance on 14<sup>th</sup> December, children in YR, Y1 and Y2 can come in a little later than usual, up to 10.00am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. This later arrival to school will be authorised.**

### Junior production: 'Bethlehem the Musical' by Mark & Helen Johnson and Sue Langwade

- There will be 2 performances of the Junior Production on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December - both at 7pm.
- 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)
- As space is limited and all children will have seen both the Infant and Junior performances during the school day, 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 they will be offered to Y6 as a priority in the first instance.
- Arrangements for bringing and collecting children will be sent out to you before the performances.

### School Christmas Fayre: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 12-3pm

Please come along to our Christmas Fayre to join in with some festive fun and some delicious food and drink. Our fundraising focus is on the development of the playground spaces. Watch out for a flyer from The Friends of St Mary's. Thank you to all of those who are working hard to prepare for the fayre.

### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day: 7<sup>th</sup> December

On Thursday 7th 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.



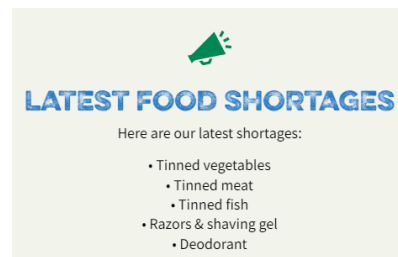
We'd appreciate your support to make Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day a success.

### Thinking beyond ourselves:

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.

- 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. We will be creating Christmas cards to share with Barnet Age UK and Friend In Need who support vulnerable older people and isolated community members. We hope that our cards help those individuals to know that they are being held in mind over the festive period.
- 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 very bare. 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. If you're able to, please consider providing chocolate or Christmas treats for children who might otherwise have gone without them.

**Please bring any donations in a strong plastic bag on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December.** Children should take these to class. Please give what you can.



### Carol Service - St Mary's School and Church – Saturday 9th 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. If your child is in the school choir, they will have a special job to do during the service 😊

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:

- St. Mary's Church Christmas Fayre – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5-7pm.
- Advent Carols by Candlelight at 6pm – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm.
- Community carol singing in The Prince of Wales pub – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.
- Christmas Carols by Candlelight at 4.30pm and 6.30pm - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December.
- Family Crib Service at 4pm – Sunday 24th December.

**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.

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

- Saturday 2nd December: School Christmas Fayre, 12-3pm
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December: Food Bank Donations to school
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Infant Nativity – 2pm and 6pm
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Production at 7pm both days
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas lunch at school
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Christingle service in school and last day of term.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT 3PM ON 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER.**



*From all of us at St Mary's School, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers are with you as always.*

**Wishing you all a restful weekend,**

**Mrs. Constantinou**

