



St Mary's C of E Primary School

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Newsletter No. 6

Thursday 14th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

School has been a hive of festive activity over the last few weeks, so we have lots to tell you about.

We are really looking forward to the infant and junior productions happening over the next few days.

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 120 bags. Your donations will make such a difference to individuals and families, particularly over the Christmas period.



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. Our choir have also brought some festive cheer to Goodwin Court residents and FiN members with their beautiful carol singing.

Carol service:

On Saturday, we came together to hear 9 Bible readings and 9 carols in a Christmas celebration at St. Mary's Church. Over 100 people gathered to listen, reflect and sing, including our wonderful school choir.

It was a great joy that children, parents, carers, staff and governors helped to lead this beautiful act of worship.



Friends of St Mary's Fundraising:

Very many thanks to everyone who helped and to those who came along to our Christmas Fayre. It was a great success, raising an amazing £4,000. So far this academic year, Friends events have raised the following funds:

Y4,5,6 disco - £700

Y6 Cake and fruit sale - £200

Christmas cards - £250

All money raised in fundraising activities directly benefits children at our school, with our current priority being the development of the playground spaces that all pupils will be able to enjoy.

Charitable giving:

We raised a wonderful £372 for Save the Children on Christmas jumper day and £277 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.



Local ju-jitsu club:

Might your child be interested in learning a martial art form? Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is a ground based grappling art that uses movement to either a) create space or b) take it away. Often, the two are used in conjunction to control the movement of another person who may be significantly stronger than the grappler, but does not understand how to use their body in the same way. Another great benefit of jiu-jitsu training is that it is relatively low impact - No punches/kicking to the face. To find out more about this club that is held in New Barnet, [get in touch here](#). Let the club know that you saw the information in our newsletter, to qualify for a **reduced fee**. The school will also receive a small donation every time a St. Mary's pupil joins the club, so it's win-win!

Online safety:

If your child receives a tech device for Christmas, be sure that they are using it wisely and safely. Please remember that all St Mary's parents have free access to Online Safety materials. Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/st-mary-s-church-of-england-primary-school-3> and complete your details. Once you're set up, you'll be able to **choose 'Parent/Carer'** as your user type and get instant access to all training and resources.

Attached to this newsletter are a few parent guides:

- Online Content: 10 Tips to Keep Your Children Safe Online
- What parents and carers need to know about Roblox – please pay particular attention to the messaging and chat room functions in this game.
- 12 top tips for a tech-free Christmas
- What parents need to know about Nintendo Switch

Christmas celebrations in school: events coming up

There are lots of exciting celebrations coming up between now and the end of term.

- ♥ Thursday 14th December: 2pm and 6pm Infant Nativity (ticketed event)
- ♥ Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December: 7pm Junior production (ticketed event)
- ♥ **Wednesday 20th December: We'd like to invite the children to come to school wearing something festive this day, which is our Christmas lunch celebration day. Please note that the children should be comfortable in their choice of clothes and footwear, as they will be wearing these all day.**
- ♥ Thursday 21st December: Christingle service in school

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL ENDS AT 3PM ON THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER
REMINDER: SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY

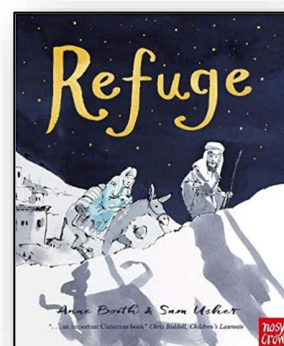
Christmas Collective Worship:

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.



Here are a few prayers from the children's reflection areas:

'Dear God, thank you for the earth and our family. Thank you that Jesus was born and that he gave joy, love and care. Amen' Y2 pupil

'Dear God, thank you for our world. We pray for the sick and poor. We hope the world gets better. Amen' Y4 pupil

'Jesus, I love you sooo much. You are the best person ever. We believe in you and love you. Amen.' Y3 pupil

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 the small selection below.



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.

