

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

Christmas Productions

Christmas is drawing very near (just under two weeks until the holidays) and the children are busy finishing their school work for this term (including a number of Christmas activities).

There is a wonderful feeling of Christmas in the air as the school is full of Christmas excitement and mischief from the elves who have again decided to visit St. Mary's this year. The children are really enjoying the fact that these elves seem to be extremely badly behaved.



Year 2 Performance

We are delighted this year that the Year 2 teachers and children decided again to hold a Christmas Carol Service in aid of the Nightingale Hospice.



Thank you Year 2 for some beautiful singing this year and parents for your support for the children and for your donations for the Hospice.

Year 1, Reception and Nursery Productions

A lovely time was had by all who attended the Christmas plays in the Hall. A big thank you to the children of Years 1, Reception and Nursery for their enthusiastic singing, dancing, speaking, instrument playing and acting. Lots of budding future stars I think!



Many thanks to all of the staff across the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes for their hard work and dedicated effort in preparing the children. Thank you too parents for your help in providing

costumes where necessary and helping and encouraging your children to practise song words etc. at home.



Junior Choir Carol Service

Due to the recent increase in the number of Covid cases the service this year will be recorded for families to enjoy safely at home. We would be very grateful if you would donate to the Nightingale Hospice as you always do so generously at this time of the year. You can make cash donations to the school office or donate via parent pay.

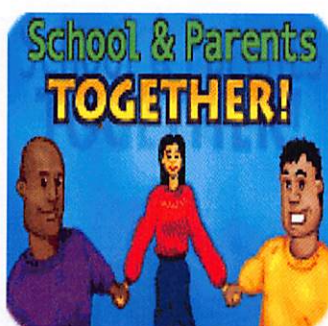
Leading Parent Partnership

As part of our work towards continuing to develop our partnership

with you to enhance our children's learning experience we had another 'Bring your Dad to School!' event earlier this term.

Again this event was very well supported and a very long queue of dads lined up outside the school ready for the 9.30am start.

Thank you dads for your excellent help and support throughout the morning and for your very positive and encouraging written and verbal comments.



Illegal Parking

We had the zig-zag lines outside the school repainted a couple of years ago. Although we think they are very visible there are still a small number of adults parking on the zig-zags generally in order to drop off or collect children from school.

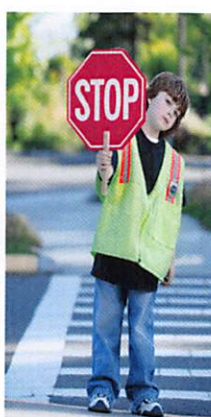
Parents or carers parking on the zig-zags are parking illegally and

putting our children in danger.

To avoid this please be prepared to come a bit earlier, park legally and walk a little bit with your child if necessary in order to keep the road in front of the school clear. This is also a healthier option as we focus on children having the option to walk a little bit each day.

Please try not to park across the driveways of our neighbours or in the car park which belongs to the Italian Centre and Mary Mother of God. I know the majority of our parents and others who bring children to school don't do this.

Thank you to all who respect the zig-zags and keep them clear.



If you are late for school please do not abandon your child on the road outside. You must come in

to school with your child. Please wear a face covering when you are coming into the school building.



Sickness

We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours. There are unfortunately a number of bugs around at the moment.

Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands with soap and water and /or use the sanitising liquid which is available in school.

Walk to School

We are delighted that more and more children are walking / cycling / scooting etc (rather than coming by car) to school at least one day each week.



Uniform

Just to remind you that the office staff process uniform orders on a Thursday only. Winter hats are now available at £4.00 each. School coats are very good value at £21.00.

Girls are permitted to wear grey / white socks or grey / navy tights as part of their winter uniform (or grey tailored trousers).

Please ensure that your child's clothing is labelled. Labelled clothing when found can be returned to its owner while unlabelled items generally remain in lost property.

Please encourage your child to wear the correct uniform (including hair colours and styles and tailored trousers for girls).

If your child wears boots or wellies to school he /she must bring school shoes to wear in the building.



Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). No highlights, designs, lines or dyes to be put in hair please.

Remember nits love long free flowing hair too!
Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails

False nails or nail polish are not permitted in school.

Please encourage your child to respect the uniform policy by leaving all jewellery at home. If earrings are worn please only allow your child to wear very small studs (no hoops please). These must be removed for PE.

Many thanks to the vast majority of parents who support us by encouraging their children to wear the uniform. It's an important part of St. Mary's identity. The majority of children look really smart every day.



Please encourage your child to leave all toys, football cards, jewellery, mobile phones etc. at home. Children become very upset if their personal belongings are lost or broken at school.

School Masses

Some of our children have led the readings, brought the gifts or Book of the Gospels forward or served at the various Masses and other services during the autumn term. Their excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation is to be commended.


All children have sung and responded well and behaved respectfully. Many members of the parish community have commented on the children's excellent behaviour. Parents thank you for your excellent support with this always.



"Let the little children come to me...."

MATTHEW 19:14

Thank you children for being so willing to take part and to you parents



for encouraging your children always.

What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent helpline:
<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Christian Meditation

We appreciate what a challenging time this continues to be for many children and their families.

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in,

whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchilid.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Play Safe, a new national safeguarding campaign (Football Association)

The Football Association and the NSPCC launched 'Play Safe', a national campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in football. At the heart of the campaign are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves.

One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions:

- Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer?
- If so, do you have their tel no. in your 'phone, as well as that of the NSPCC?
- Are you up to speed with your child's club's

safeguarding policies and procedures?

- Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying/not enjoying and why?

More information can be found here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

Talk PANTS resources for parents

We want all parents to talk PANTS. That's why we've created guides and resources to help them find the right words to talk to their children about staying safe.

[> Find Talk PANTS resources for parents on the NSPCC website](#)

Christmas Resources:

godwhospeaks.uk/christmas-resources
godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-donkey
godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-story-in-plain-english
godwhospeaks.uk/celebrate-christmas-with-bible-society

godwhospeaks.uk/making-room-for-god-this-christmas

Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress.

Any requests for time off (for special circumstances only please) must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for time off which is taken during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school and to report all absences.

Please remember that your child's absence from school affects our total absence figures. It was 2.8% at the end of the summer term. Our absence was 3.56% at the end of the first half term. Well done everyone for trying your best in these times which are a bit more challenging for all families as we all try and live with coronavirus! Our absence level is higher than in past

years but with time this should improve.

Up to the 6th December 2021, the class with the highest attendance over the term was St. Bernadette (97.76%) closely followed by St. Paul (97.67%), St. Peter (97.45%), St. Christopher (97.44%) and St. Joseph (97.23%).

Please (unless of course your child is ill) ensure your child is in school each day.

The DfE's persistent absence threshold is 10% (from Autumn 2015)!

The DfE's guidance on the 2014/15 school census explains that from the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, a pupil will be considered to be persistently absent if he/she is away for over 10% of school sessions in an academic year.

Pages 72-73 of the DfE's guidance, linked to above, contains a table which sets out the estimated thresholds that will be used to define persistently absent pupils.

15 per cent	10 per cent
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Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
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Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
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Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
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Half-term 1-4 (autumn term and spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
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Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
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Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions
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Spring Term Reminder!

Don't forget the pattern of the Easter holidays this year.

Half -term holiday = 14th - 18th February 2022.
INSET Day (no school for children) = 21st February 2022.

Easter Holiday = 4th April - 18th April 2022.

School opens for the summer term on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is important that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



Children in Need

The spotacular day earned £360.04 for Children in Need. Well done everyone!

Music Lessons

EMS offers instrumental tuition to pupils in Enfield schools within the school day and on Saturdays. Please enquire at the office if you (or your child) are interested.

Home School Agreement

Thank you to the parents who have already returned their child's Home School Agreement. Remember if you haven't already done so to read, sign and return one of the copies as soon as possible (you should have received two copies - one is for you to keep at home).



Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by not allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their

scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school. As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises. Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Birthday Celebrations!



It is lovely that so many children now like to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in sweets for their classmates.

Please remember though parents that different parents have different rules about sweets and the kinds of sweets their children are allowed to eat.

If it is your child's birthday, and you do want to mark the day, please just send in one very small bar for each child. It is probably better to send a known brand of chocolate with which all parents are familiar rather than lots of very sugary sweets or party bags. Lollipops and hard sweets are not permitted for health and safety reasons.

Also we are unable to cut up and distribute cakes or organise birthday parties during the school day. We are unable to take birthday photographs for you.

Remember you are not obliged to send in sweets at all.



Holidays

It's almost the end of term already! Time seems to have flown by this year. The last day of term is **Friday 17th December**. The school will close at 12.45pm on that day for the infants and at 1pm for the juniors. Please try very hard to pick children up promptly.

The school will open again for the new spring term on **Tuesday 4th January 2021**

Future Dates

Thursday 2nd December:
Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 10am (face coverings are required).

Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Friday 3rd December:
Nursery Christmas Performance.

Wednesday 8th December:
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required).

Monday 13th December:
Christmas Lunch.

Tuesday 14th December:
Christmas Class Parties PM.

Friday 17th December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 17th anniversary Mass) in church for Years 1-6 (face coverings are required).

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Tuesday 4th January 2022:
Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates and in the current pandemic times it may be that some of what we have planned may not actually happen in the end. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all parents who have volunteered to help in classes this term. We really value the time and support you give to children and staff.



Tissues

We have very few tissues and hundreds of runny noses! We are no longer able to afford to provide tissues for classrooms. Donations of boxes of tissues would be so very gratefully received.

If your child has a cold please try to send some tissues to school in his / her school bag.



School Fund

Since the last newsletter, **£3045** has been donated to the School Fund. This is

excellent! Thank you to all who have supported the school to date this year with voluntary donations.

School Dinners

We started our new 'right choice' menu about this time a number of years ago. As I know you are aware we worked with CTCs (our provider of school meals) over a number of years to improve the quality of the cooked meals given to our children at lunchtime.

Our cook works to ensure that the contents of our school meals meet National Nutritional Guidelines.

As you know our kitchen was completely refurbished. We also purchased new dining tables and new benches for the children, as well as a new dessert bar and upgraded our salad bar. In addition we had a new industrial oven installed.

School meals cost £2.50 per day / £12.50 per week (from September 2016).



Please pay in advance (at least a week in advance) online using the Parent Pay

system or ask the Office staff for a Pay Point card.

Remember that if your child has school meals (and is not entitled to free meals) and you don't pay for them the school has to find the money to pay your debt. Always pay for your child's meals.

Your child may be entitled to free meals. To qualify for free school meals parents or guardians must be in receipt of:

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Asylum seekers subsistence payment (support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
- Child tax credit (but not working tax credit) only and have an annual income of less than £16,190

Please contact the school office if you feel your child qualifies for free meals.



Phone calls

Your child is welcome to phone home (in emergency only). We would welcome a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any phone calls your child makes

Parish Christmas Raffle



Thank you parents and children for your **very generous** donations of bottles of wine, beer, boxes of chocolates, biscuits and sweets, toys, books, tins, toiletries and a host of other items for the Parish Raffle.

Your willingness to give and support our parish is wonderful. I know your donations made a difference to the success of this event and earned much needed funds for our church.

Best Wishes

Many thanks for all of your support both for me personally and for the members of our school staff throughout the

term. It is really appreciated by all at St. Mary's and I know contributes greatly to the happy atmosphere we are so fortunate to have in our school.

I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and restful Christmas. Enjoy this special family time together.

I hope to see you all in January well rested and ready for a new year.

Stay safe please.

Miss M. Creed
Headteacher



A Prayer for Christmas

What shall I bring Him,
Poor as I am.
If I were a shepherd I
would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I
would do my part.
What can I give Him.
Give Him my heart.



These are the prayers we say each day with the children. You might like to say these prayers with your child during the holidays. It's good practice to have a little quiet prayer time each day. I know many of you already encourage your child to pray at home.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always
in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you
Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love
today.

Thank you for my family,
And all the things you give
to me.
Guard me in the dark of
night.
And in the morning send
your light. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit
together,
Bless the food we eat
today.
Bless the hands that make
the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.



Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the
food we have eaten,
Thank you God for all our
friends.
Thank you God for
everything,
Thank you God. Amen.



The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

JESUS is
the Reason
for the
Season.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of
God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.



Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit. As it was in
the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Our School Prayer



This is our school.
May we all live here
Happily together.
May our school be full of
joy.

May love dwell here among
us
Every day.

Love of one another,
Love of all people
everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.

Let us all remember that
As many hands build a
house,
So every child
Can make this school
A lovely place. Amen




The Blessed Sacrament
is exposed in a
Monstrance

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Understood simply,
Eucharistic Adoration
is adoring or honouring
the Eucharistic
Presence of Christ. In
a deeper sense, it
involves "the
contemplation of the
Mystery of Christ
truly present before
us".

During Eucharistic
Adoration, we "watch
and wait", we remain
"silent" in His
Presence and open
ourselves to His
Graces which flow
from the Eucharist ...
By worshipping the
Eucharistic Jesus, we
become what God
wants us to be! Like a
magnet, The Lord
draws us to Himself
and gently transforms
us.

In its fullest essence
... Eucharistic
Adoration is "God and



Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!"

The Eucharist is: Jesus truly present - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity!

At the moment of Consecration, during the Mass, the "gifts" of bread and wine are transformed (transubstantiated) into the actual Body and Blood of Christ, at the Altar. This means that they are not only spiritually transformed, but rather are actually (substantially) transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. The elements retain the appearance of bread and wine, but are indeed the actual Body and Blood of Christ. This is what is meant by Real Presence: the actual, physical presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Christ instituted this Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist in order to remain with mankind until the end of time (Jn. 14:18).

The (reserved) Blessed Sacrament serves as a focal point of devotion.

Because, as Catholics, we believe that Christ is truly and substantially present in the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament is given the same adoration and devotion that is accorded to Christ.

At the beginning of the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a priest or deacon removes the sacred host from the tabernacle and places it in the Monstrance on the Altar for adoration by the faithful. "Monstrance" is the vessel used in the Church to display the consecrated Eucharistic Host, during Eucharistic adoration or benediction. The word monstrance comes from the Latin word *monstrare*, meaning "to expose". It is known in Latin as an *Ostensorium*. When a consecrated host is placed in the monstrance, It is said to be a solemn exposition.

When the Monstrance contains the Sacred Host, the priest does not touch it with his bare hands, but instead, holds it with a *humeral veil*, a wide band of cloth that covers his shoulders (humera) and has pleats on the inside in which he places his hands.

At all other times, the reserved Sacrament is kept locked in the Tabernacle, so that the faithful may pray in the presence of the Sacrament.

"Perpetual Adoration" is Eucharistic Adoration round the clock (that is, twenty-four hours a day). A "Holy Hour" is "Eucharistic Adoration of Reparation" which lasts for about an hour.

Adoration ceremonies traditionally include Scripture readings, hymns, prayers and time for silent adoration.



Il santissimo Sacramento.
 Le très-saint Sacrement. • El santísimo Sacramento.
 Die heiligste Abwechslung. The most holy Sacrament of the Altar

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
 PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ADMISSIONS FOR
 ACADEMIC YEAR
 2021/2022**

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing (as is usually the case a number of our families were moved out of London over the summer period and in the first half of this term) we currently have places in our Nursery, Reception and Year 2 2021 year groups and some places in some of our other year groups.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Some new children have joined us again this half-term. Please continue to do this.

From our School Inspection Reports:

'The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection...Pupils make good progress from their various starting points...Their willingness to come to school is evident in their well above average rates of attendance...You have successfully maintained the above-average attainment by the end of Year 6 in reading, writing and mathematics...Teachers form good relationships with pupils, providing them with a wealth of interesting activities across the curriculum. Pupils concentrate well in class and are keen to work with each other...Pupils say they feel safe at school and know how to avoid danger in the wider community'(OFSTED Inspection, June 2018).

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious*

Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.

- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.*
- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the*

excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.

- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.*

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement*

offered when choosing charities to support.

- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*
- *Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.*
- *Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.*
- *The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school'*

(OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).

Our School Prayer

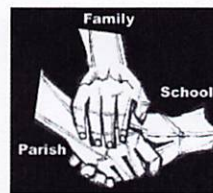
This is our school.
May we all live here
Happily together.
May our school be full of
joy.
May love dwell here among
us
Every day.

Love of one another,
Love of all people
everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.

Let us all remember that
As many hands build a
house,
So every child
Can make this school
A lovely place. Amen



St. Mary's Catholic Primary
Religious Education Newsletter for Autumn
2021
(second half-term) – Nursery and Reception



Religious Education

Topic Theme: Advent and Christmas

Students will explore the events, rituals and practices of Advent and Christmas, in time with the Church Liturgical Year.

Learning opportunities include:

- Hearing the story of Christmas.
- Coming to know Jesus is God the Father's Son.
- Coming to know that Mary is the mother of Jesus.
- Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Experiencing praying with others as a celebration.
- Experiencing liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings.
- Joining in simple prayers and hymns.
- Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life and show care for one another.

Monitoring opportunities:

Students' development will be monitored through observation and the collection of work samples for their portfolio.

Affective and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- An understanding that the stories of Jesus in the Bible link with the liturgical seasons of the church year.
- A familiarity with the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, during which we anticipate and celebrate the incarnation: God in our world.

Activities to try at home

Parents are the first educators of their child in faith. Students' learning in religious education occurs best when school and family are engaged in talking about the same topics. You could help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this topic is being taught:

- Talk with your child about Advent and Christmas – how it is celebrated in the Church and in wider society. Note the different cultural expressions of Christmas: cards in other languages, foods of other cultures, customs and celebrations of other communities.
- Talk to your child about birth: their own, yours and other members of your family. Talk about your ancestors: grandparents and great grandparents. Think about your own family heritage.
- Read stories about Christmas. Remember there are two distinct stories in the Gospel: many picture stories amalgamate the two!

An idea for prayer at home



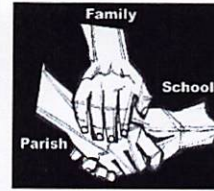
Prayer Activity

Have an Advent wreath as a focal point in your home. Light a candle for each week of Advent and pray 'God of light, help us to be people who walk with you towards the birth of your son.'

St. Mary's Catholic Primary

Religious Education Newsletter for Autumn 2021

(second half-term) – Years 1-6



Religious Education

Key Idea:

This framework of learning is intended as the second in the Academic year 2021/22. As the resource which teaches both Advent and Christmas it begins the Liturgical cycle of Year C – the Year of Luke. As the name suggests the content of this resource is the season of Advent and the birth of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. It builds on the learning of the previous resource by further developing knowledge of God, in particular knowledge of the second person of the Trinity, Jesus, the Christ.

Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

Spiritual Outcomes: *It is hoped that pupils will develop:*

- A sense of wonder about the coming of God into the world
- A disposition of prayer
- An openness to the mystery of God, incarnate
- An appreciation of the gift of Christmas

Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith. Your child's learning in religious education will be much greater if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. This resource teaches the practices of Advent and Christmas. Your children will be asked to think about their own birth and how you prepare for the birth of Jesus. Talk to them about what you do: do your rituals and customs reflect your cultural background?

An idea for prayer at home

Prayer Activity



Prayer throughout Advent. Make an Advent wreath and pray for the coming of God in Jesus.

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.




























God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent ti

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1st Sunday of Advent What is the promise the prophet Jeremiah speaks of in today's first reading? <i>Jeremiah 33:14-16⁺</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p>Advent wreaths help us prepare for Christmas. Find out why they are round and made of evergreen leaves.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>As a class, learn our Advent Carol <i>We are Waiting,*</i> and think carefully about what the words mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>An Advent wreath's candles are a symbol of Christ's light. Think of ways you can be a light for others today.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: God, promise, wait, hope, light, world, Jesus.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>Today is the feast of St Francis Xavier, to share the light of Jesus, where and how did he travel?*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>Say the Mission Together Prayer: <i>May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen.</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist told the people to prepare for Jesus. How can we prepare for Jesus? <i>Luke 3:1-6⁺</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>Today is the feast of St Nicholas. What did he do to bring hope to the poor?*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>Make a <i>Peace Paper Chain</i> and think about how you can be a peace-maker in school this week.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p>We can prepare for the coming of Jesus by being peace builders. Say the Mission Together prayer today for children living in war zones.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>The prophet Isaiah told us to expect a child called 'Immanuel'. Find out what the name 'Immanuel' means.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>As a class sing, <i>Go Tell it on the Mountain*</i> Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>Draw or make a Christmas crib. If you can, use recycled materials.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent The prophet Zephaniah shares God's joy in today's first reading. How can we share God's joy this week? <i>Zephaniah 3:14-18⁺</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>Find out why the candle for the third Sunday of Advent is pink and not purple.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>Be an Advent light today; look out for someone who is sad and invite them to play.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p>Find out how Christmas is celebrated in another country.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>Create a <i>Gift for the World</i> decoration and think about the gifts God has given you to share.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>As a class sing <i>Joy to the World.*</i> Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>Say a prayer for children who will not have enough food to eat today. Ask God to help us share more.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth. How can you make visitors feel welcome this Christmas? <i>Luke 1:39-45⁺</i></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>Find a way to help at home today, to prepare for Christmas.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>Be an Advent light today, make a special Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour.*</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p>Sing your favourite carol. Think about the words. Tell someone what they mean.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>Pray for children who have no home. Ask God to keep them safe, and for us to find ways to help them.</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God and your family for all the gifts their love brings. 24 & 25</p> 	

Cross symbol⁺ refers to abridged scriptures found in our accompanying liturgical prayers. Asterisks refer to activities, assemblies, or carols. Download all for free from the Advent page of the Mission Together website.

Mission Together, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU. Web: missiontogether.org.uk Reg. Charity No. 1056651





Online Safety Newsletter

December 2021

Is your child about to get their first phone?

EE have launched PhoneSmart Licence, which is a course to help prepare children for their new phone by teaching them how to stay safe and be kind online. PhoneSmart is free and available to everyone, not just EE customers.

Your child will have to complete 5 sections and as they complete each episode, they will be rewarded with a sticker. Once they have collected all 5, they will be given their PhoneSmart Licence.

The site also includes several useful articles to support you, for example what to do when buying their phone, information about parental controls and where to go for further advice. Follow the link below to access:

<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/>



Parental controls

With Christmas just around the corner, we thought we'd provide a little reminder about setting up appropriate parental controls for any new phones, consoles or games your child may receive.



Games/consoles

First, check the PEGI rating of any new games to check that your child is old enough to be playing them. PEGI provides age classifications for video games and **considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty**. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and the chat facilities within games. Visit PEGI here: <https://pegi.info/>

For any new consoles, it is important to set up appropriate controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out about Parental Controls for each device:



Nintendo: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/community/for-everyone/responsible-gaming>

Tablets/Smart phones

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device, is it suitable for their age and review all settings and privacy options for each one. For the devices, use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:



iPhones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Google Play: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>



Further information

Information, tips and advice on setting up parental controls: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Online Games with chat

Is your child playing games online?

Children can communicate online through lots of different apps, social media and games (Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram, FIFA, Fortnite for example), so it's important to know what your child is doing online and who they communicate with so you can talk about the potential risks together.



Some games include communication between players, this could be via the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play.



Chatting to strangers

When playing online, your child might be playing games with people they don't know. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players that make them feel uncomfortable and that they know to talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Be kind

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they are speaking to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect, like they would if they were face-to-face.



Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages (or sees something that worries them) then they should not reply or engage in conversation with the person, but they should instead tell a trusted adult.

Further information

These additional links will provide you with further guidance and support regarding this topic:

- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/talking-to-people-online-when-should-i-be-worried/>
- https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/Need-advice/online-gaming/

A guide to location settings

Many apps and games now ask users to share their location. It's important that your child understands the risk of location sharing and that you can discuss when it is appropriate to share. You can read more here:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/a-parents-guide-to-location-settings/>

My Family's Digital Toolkit

Would you like a personalised online safety toolkit? Answer a few questions about your children's digital habits and then you will receive age-specific advice to support your children online. The form does require an email address. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>

Helping My Autistic Child Stay Safe Online

The Ann Craft Trust and The Marie Collins Foundation have joined forces to create a resource to help parents and children understand various online risks. The booklet includes information about what online harm is and ways you can effectively help and support your children. Download a copy here:

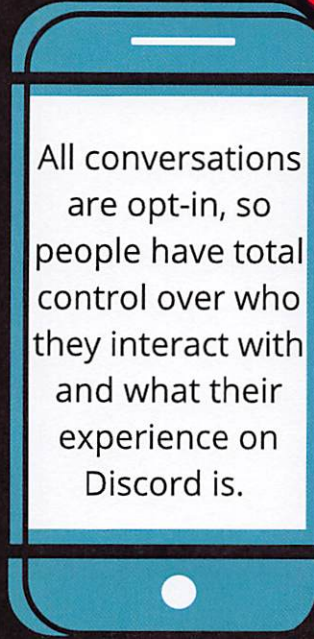
<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/helping-my-autistic-child-stay-safe-online/>

FOCUS ON...



CONSIDER...

DISCORD



All conversations are opt-in, so people have total control over who they interact with and what their experience on Discord is.



WHAT IS IT...

Discord is a free voice, video, and text chat app that's used by tens of millions of people ages 13+ to talk and hang out with their communities and friends.



ADVICE FOR KEEPING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE



MORE INFO



DMs and GDMs: Users can send private messages to other users as a direct message (DM), as well as start a voice or video call. Most DMs are one-on-one conversations, but users have the option to invite up to nine others to the conversation to create a private group DM, with a maximum size of ten people. Group DMs are not public and require an invite from someone in the group to join.

Go Live: users can share their screen with other people who are in a server or a DM with them.



There is adult content and adult language on Discord. Each user chooses which server they want to join and who they want to interact with. In servers, adult content must be posted in a channel marked "Not Safe for Work" (NSFW), which cannot be accessed by users under 18. In Direct Messages, we recommend that every user under 18 activates the explicit content filter (in User Settings >> Privacy & Safety >> Keep Me Safe). This setting is on by default and will scan images and videos in all direct messages and block explicit content.



TOP TIPS...



- **For users under 18, we recommend choosing the "Keep me safe" setting.** This setting is on by default and will ensure that images and videos in all direct messages are scanned by Discord and explicit content is blocked.
- You can **choose** from the following options when deciding **who can add you as a friend**.
- **Everyone** - Selecting this means that anyone who knows the child's Discord Tag or is in a mutual server with them can send a friend request.
- **Friends of Friends** - Selecting this means that for anyone to send the child a friend request, they must have at least one mutual friend with them. They can view this in their user profile by clicking the Mutual Friends tab next to the Mutual Servers tab. This is the option we recommend for children to limit who can interact with them on Discord.
- **Server Members** - Selecting this means users who share a server with them can send them a friend request. Deselecting this means that they can only be added by someone with a mutual friend.
- If someone is bothering the child, you always have the option to block the user. Blocking on Discord removes the user from their Friends List, prevents them from messaging them directly, and hides their messages in any shared servers.
- **To block someone, they can simply click on their @username and select Block.**
- As long as the child has the username and password for an account, **they can delete their Discord account at any time.** If they can't access the Discord account directly but do have access to their email address, they can email support@discord.com from that email and request the account's deletion.

To help stay informed and in control visit Discords website:

<https://discord.com/safety/360044153831-Helping-your-teen-stay-safe-on-Discord>



KEEP UP TO DATE BY VISITING WWW.KIDSONLINELINEWORLD.COM

Families, Parents and Carers

My Ref:
Your Ref: DSA/da
Date: 3rd December 2021

Dear Families, Parents and Carers

We are seeing many COVID cases within our schools and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you, your household members and your young people to take your COVID vaccination if you haven't done so already. This is even more important with the emergence of the Omicron variant. Vaccination is the best protection against COVID and whilst it is rare for young people to have serious symptoms due to initial infection, they can still experience 'long covid' and of course spread the virus to more vulnerable adults. 12-15 year olds will now be offered a second COVID jab to provide them with additional protection.


In Enfield many young people from the age of 12 upwards have already received their vaccination but many more have not. I would encourage all who have not to book vaccination. This is even more important with the identification of the new Omicron variant and uncertainty about the impact that will have on our community.

The National Booking Service is available for you to book in to receive COVID vaccination. COVID vaccination is the best way to prevent infections for young people and the whole community.

Please use the National Booking Service to book vaccination for your child <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Tony Theodoulou
Executive Director People
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

 If you need this document in another language or format contact the service using the details above.

You may find the below links useful:

[COVID-19 vaccine - NHS](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

[COVID-19 vaccine: why should everyone be encouraged to have the vaccine? – Dr Anthony Harnden, JCVI - PHE](#)

Yours faithfully



Dudu Sher-Arami
Director of Public Health
London Borough of Enfield

Enfield Council has launched a series of 14 e-newsletters covering a range of topics that provide residents with more frequent Council news and service updates. More than 40,000 people have already signed up, make sure you're one of them. You can register at [**www.enfield.gov.uk/enewsletters**](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/enewsletters)

**Breakfast Club
After School Club
Holiday Club
Inset Day**



We promise to care for your children's needs

**Easter Holiday
Spring Half Term
Summer Holidays
Autumn Half Term**

WWW.STICKYFINGERSENFIELD.CO.UK



BREAKFAST CLUB

Mon - Fri 7:00am - 8:45am

Cost: £4.50 per child per session

Cost: £22.50 per child per week



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Mon - Fri 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Cost: £13.00 per child per session

Cost: £55.00 per child per week



HOLIDAY CLUB

Mon - Fri 8:00am - 6:00pm

Cost: £20:00 per child per session

additional activity at extra cost



INSET DAYS

Mon - Fri 7:00am - 6:00pm

Cost: £30:00 per child per session

additional activity at extra cost

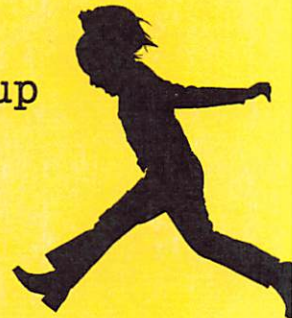
Cost: £2:00 per hour per child for early pickup



MINI BUS SERVICE

Mon - Fri 6:30 am - 7:00pm

Cost: £7.00 per child per ride



**CONTACT OUR MANAGER SHENIZ ORMANDJI FOR MORE DETAILS
SHENIZ@STICKYFINGERSENFIELD.CO.UK**

07732385075

WWW.STICKYFINGERSENFIELD.CO.UK