



St Mary's News

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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Head of School: Mrs G Quinlan

Thursday 21st December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Catholic Life of the School

Sunday's Gospel – as we approach the final Sunday in Advent we hear the Gospel from Luke. In this Gospel the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man called Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. 'Rejoice, favoured one!' said Gabriel. 'The Lord is with you.' Mary was disturbed and asked herself what he could mean. 'Do not be afraid, Mary,' the angel continued. 'You have found favour with God. Listen! You will conceive and bear a son and will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the

School Nativity Plays We were delighted to welcome so many parents to our school nativities this week. The children in our EYFS classes retold the story of the first Christmas so beautifully and accurately. Our parents were greatly impressed with the quality of the children's presentation of this wonderful event. Both Fr Alex and Sr Philomena have commented on the high quality productions where the children have shown great understanding about the Nativity.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish events – Fr Alex has asked us to share events at his parish with all parents. You do not have to be in his parish to attend the services, **all** families are welcome.

Sunday 24 th December	7.00pm	Nativity Play and Carols
Sunday 24 th December Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Mass. After Mass Santa will be in the church hall – join him for gifts, refreshments and a celebration.
Monday 25 th December Christmas Day	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 31 st December Holy Family Feast Day	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 31 st December New Year's Eve	7.00pm 8.00pm	Thanksgiving Service Mass
Monday 1 st January 2018 New Year's Day	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Sunday 7 th January Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am 11.30am	Mass Mass

Westminster Cathedral Carol Service - On Tuesday 12th December, children from Year 3 attended the Catholic Children's Society Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral. They joined around 2,500 children from the Diocese of Westminster to celebrate the 'Story of Christmas'. The Nativity was performed by children (interspersed with songs) and featured a real-life sheep and donkey.

Cardinal Vincent Nicols spoke to the children about the gifts of The Wise Men and about our need to support others in need in the Diocese, especially at this time Catholic children, through The Catholic Children's Society. The children enjoyed their visit to the Cathedral and had the opportunity to have a look around the magnificent building and view some of the art and displays. It was a truly festive event!



The Wallace Collection - After visiting the Cathedral, Year 3 went to visit a very special gallery, The Wallace Collection. They were given a warm welcome by staff at the museum, and taken into a room where they had the opportunity to view some landscapes and seascapes. Having talked about how Rubens structured his pictures, the children then had the opportunity to draw one of their own. The results were fantastic!



Alice's Wonderful Adventure - Year 5 children were privileged to be able to attend a performance of Alice's Wonderful Adventure, presented by the Brahma Kumaris. The performance was highly enjoyable, and a wonderful chance for our children to experience live theatre. After the event, the children were treated to a snack and box of juice. We were very grateful for the generosity of the Brahma Kumaris centre.

KS2 Christmas Carol Service – Earlier this week Fr Alex welcomed all the children in Years 3-6 to perform their Christmas Carols and Nativity play. The children performed the Christmas Nativity perfectly and sang their carols with great joy. Many parishioners commented on the exemplary behaviour of the children as well as their participation in the singing. Fr Alex was very proud of the high quality performance.



Christmas Woolly Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Following our nativity at the Church the children enjoyed Christmas dinner in school. There were some very creative jumpers to be seen on the day. We are delighted to announce that just over £200 was raised through wearing our Christmas jumpers; this will be sent to St Luke's Hospice for Brent and Harrow.



Year 4 Working Science visit On Tuesday 12th December 2017, Year 4 pupils took part in an 'Eco Electricity' workshop with Dr. Gareth Francis from Working Science. This supported their 'Switched On' Science topic, helping them to explore where electricity comes from and the benefits of using renewable energy.

The children enthusiastically experimented with solar panels and wind turbines in order to power a selection of electrical objects. They were then tasked with creating a circuit using fruits and vegetables as the energy source! Pupils worked well together to build successful circuits and turn their lemons, oranges and potatoes into an electric supply for clocks, calculators, buzzers and bulbs. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit from Dr. Francis.