



St Mary's CE Primary School  
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## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, WEEK 6

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

#### Connected Planet Foundation

Last month we invited you to donate to the Connected Planet Foundation in return for a film of the children's lovely singing. I am so grateful for your generosity which resulted in £1200 going to the charity. Your money will fund trips into the Nyosi Reserve for pupils at the VM Kwinana School. This is the school we are working with this year starting with our Year 6 pupils this month becoming pen pals. If you want to find out more about the charity visit:

<https://www.connectedplanetfoundation.com/>

#### Santa Stroll, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023

We look forward to seeing our St Mary's community out in force tomorrow morning starting at 9.30 at the junior site in support of The Princess Alice Hospices - let's turn Twickenham red. You might see a very familiar figure giving out the hats! If you haven't yet registered please just turn up tomorrow. There's still time to donate. Thank you for your support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-c-of-e-primary-school-1696847473531>

#### Carol Service

This year at our Carol Service we will be collecting donations for the British Red Cross - Israel and occupied Palestine Territory Appeal. More than 16,000 people - including children - have been killed in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank since 7<sup>th</sup> October. Below is some of the work the Red Cross has been doing:

#### In Gaza:

- More than 379,000 people have received food, water and other essential items.
- Over 11,000 people have been supported with emergency medical care.
- Thirty-one premature babies were evacuated from Al-Shifa hospital to the Emirati Hospital in Rafah; Twenty-eight are now receiving specialist care across hospitals in Egypt.

#### In the West Bank:

- Over 3,000 injured people have been given emergency medical care.
- Ambulance crews have transported over 80 casualties.
- 6,600 people have received psychosocial support.

#### In Israel, the relief work of Magen David Adom includes:

- Mobilising 1,500 ambulances and 10,000 first responders.
- Emergency medical teams transporting injured people.
- Organising blood donations to support medical facilities.
- Supporting health authorities with hospital transfers.

If you can help we will have baskets and a card machine at the ready!

[https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territory-appeal?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI1t\\_pku\\_ggMVgYZQBh3FRA\\_wEAYASAAEgJYw\\_D\\_BwE](https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territory-appeal?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMI1t_pku_ggMVgYZQBh3FRA_wEAYASAAEgJYw_D_BwE)

## Weekly attendance: w/c 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Well done to Year 4 for reaching 'The Golden Goal' - for the highest attendance and to Reception for the least lates this week!

Year group	Lates	Attendance
Reception	2	98.16%
Year 1	21	96.75%
Year 2	3	96.05%
Year 3	3	93.02%
Year 4	7	98.27%
Year 5	5	97.05%
Year 6	6	96.949%
Whole School	47	96.90%

## OTHER NEWS

### World Book Week

We are planning ahead as always and wonder if any of you have contacts in the literary world? World Book Day is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March and we would like to spice it up a little with visits from publishers, authors, storytellers (in English or in a pupil's home language) or illustrators. If you have anyone who can assist please drop me an email at [headtecaher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:headtecaher@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk). Many thanks.

### Caterlink

Feedback from our chef on the middle site suggests the children don't like or don't choose any dishes that are 'wet' - by this he means sauces, things like tomato sauce on pasta. It would be so helpful if at home you could encourage the children to try different things at school – jacket potato alternatives get very dull after a while I'm sure!

### Dates for the diary:

- 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December: Yrs 2 & 3 Christmas performance.
- 15<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Carol Service, led by Yr 4 at 1400 and 1830.
- Last day of term is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December; school finishes ONE hour earlier on each site.
- First day of the Spring term is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## Knitted Nativity Scene

During the final two weeks of term this lovely little 'Knitivity' scene will be touring all classes. Such beautiful handiwork that has been in school a long time but we don't know who created it - if you know please get in touch via [info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.richmond.sch.uk).



### Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

We invite children to come to school on the last day of term wearing a Christmas Jumper. This year, given other recent charity projects, we will not be asking for any donations.

### Silent Auction

We are really pleased to announce that the Silent Auction has raised a massive **£9,960** for the school... and counting - we're keeping the donations pot open to get to our target of £10,000! A huge thank you to everyone who participated or donated - we are immensely grateful for your support. For the winners, **please collect all physical vouchers and items from Middle Site ASAP, and before the end of term at the latest.**

## FINALLY

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for a hot plate of food every day. Thank you for a roof over our heads and for our family. We are very grateful for a fun and fulfilled day. Please guide us through tough times. Thank you for all our teachers who teach us every day. Please help people who are less fortunate than us. Amen. *Mia B 5K.*

Yours sincerely

A small, handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Angela Abrahams.

Angela Abrahams  
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