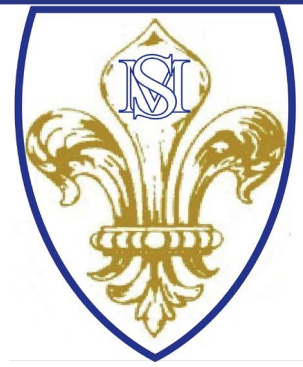


St Mary's News



25th November 2022

As I type my newsletter I can't believe that Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and I'm sure, before we know it, Christmas will be upon us! Walking through the hall this morning Nursery were practising hard with Miss Brooke for their nativity and the choir have been practising exceptionally hard for their upcoming concerts - you all have a real treat coming your way!

Anti Bullying Week – One Kind Word

We started last week with our "just for fun" Odd Sock Day to raise awareness for the start of Anti Bullying Week – One Kind Word. The children explained beautifully how their different socks represented how different they are and how these differences should be respected and valued knowing that bullying will never be tolerated. It's been great to see children wearing their pin badges and using their pencils.

Reading Reviews

Last week we welcomed Keely Adams, from Larchmore Primary School, who worked with Mrs Smith (Y1) and Mrs Rodrigues (Y6) to review our reading provision across the school. Together, they watched phonics and reading lessons from Nursery to Year 6 identifying what's working well and what could be even better. We have identified some areas for improvement so watch this space for new reading books and a new system to track reading – particularly in years 3-6!

Children in Need

Last Friday saw us live out our Catholic mission by donning our spots, our yellow or our combination of the two in order to raise some money for Children in Need. This charity, whose mission is to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential, does sterling work and as a school community we raised £85.67! Thank you so much for your generosity.



Health and Safety Audit

On Friday we had our annual Health and Safety Audit led by Miss Page and Mr Smith and had excellent outcomes. Our auditor praised our risk assessment processes, grounds keeping and all manner of other things which are included in the report. A huge thank you to Miss Page and Mr Smith for leading us through this.

CAFOD workshops

It was a pleasure to welcome David from CAFOD on Tuesday who lead an assembly and two workshops based on Catholic Social Teaching (CST). CST is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. David discussed the principles with the children and explored how they can live these out in their everyday lives.

Weekly Mass

Mrs Smith (Deputy Head) has recently organised for all classes to attend weekly Thursday morning mass. This week it was a real joy to attend with our year 2 class; they sang beautifully, listened attentively and were particularly keen to see F. Anthony in his red vestments! A huge thank you for Mrs Smith for organising and F. Anthony for facilitating this.

Upcoming dates:

1st December	Ukulele Concert to parents at 9.15am
7th December	Choir to Lakeside to sing Christmas Carols
8th December	Reception & Nursery Nativity Performance - 10am and 2.30pm
12th December	Y4 Reconciliation (in school)
12th December	Community Singalong hosted by the school's choir 2pm
13th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity Performances (10am & 2.30pm)
13th December	Year 5 Carol Service in the Church at 3.30pm
14th December	Y5 Reconciliation (in school)
14th December	Rock Steady Concert to Parents at 9.15am
15th December	Y6 Reconciliation (in school)
16th December	Christmas Dinner and Wear a Christmas Jumper Day
16th December	School Disco - Times for each year group to follow
19th December	Christmas Panto (in school)
20th December	School closes at 2pm for the Christmas Holiday
5th January 2023	School resumes.

Nativity Tickets

Tickets for all performances will go on sale on 1st December from the main school office. As last year, they will cost £3.50 each and include light refreshments afterwards.

Community Singalong 12th December at 2pm

This is a new event for us, led by the school choir. Please come and join us for a singalong we would particularly love to invite any grandparents, aunties or uncles who would like to come and be entertained as well as sing a few Christmas carols with a mince pie or two!

Have a wonderful weekend



Mrs V L McBrown
Headteacher



In preparation for Advent...

My little Lord Jesus,
I love You and thank You for this Advent season.
Please help me to understand all that You have done for me.

Your loving mother held You in her heart
and brought You into this world.
Help me to do the same.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent,
as my King and my God.
Draw me close to you.

Mother Mary, pray for me this Advent
so that I may do all that God wants me to do.
You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you.
Please pray for me that I may do the same.
Amen.