

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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Friday 20th November 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we step into the winter months, I hope this message finds you well. I'd like to share some important updates and a few exciting things happening in our school community.

The Jubilee Icon Visits Our School

Last week, we were blessed to welcome the Jubilee Icon of the Visitation, introduced by Bishop Mark, to our school. This beautiful icon reminds us of Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the joy of sharing hope and faith with others.

We marked this special occasion with a meaningful assembly where the children reflected on the importance of kindness, service, and trust in God. Their prayers and responses were thoughtful and heartfelt, making it a truly memorable moment for our school community.

After its time with us, the icon continued its pilgrimage and was taken to St Peter's in Newport, spreading its message of hope and love to the next school.

What's Happening in the Catholic Church?

This year is a very special time for the Catholic Church because we are celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. Across the world, Catholics are taking part in pilgrimages, prayers, and acts of kindness to share hope with others.

We also have a new pope, Pope Leo XIV, who was elected earlier this year. He is encouraging everyone to listen to each other, care for creation, and reach out to young people.

The Church is focusing on being a community that works together, supports those in need, and spreads the message of love and mercy. It's a wonderful reminder for us all to live with hope and kindness every day.



Keeping Warm

Please make sure your children come to school with warm coats as the temperatures drop. Staying comfortable outdoors helps them enjoy playtime and activities to the fullest.



Flamenco Fun!

Last week, our children had the wonderful opportunity to take part in Flamenco dancing! As part of our commitment to teaching Spanish, we thought this would be a fantastic way to deepen their understanding of Spanish culture.

The children loved learning the rhythmic steps, clapping patterns, and expressive movements that make Flamenco so unique. It was a joyful experience that brought language and culture to life in a vibrant and memorable way.

Carol Concert – 11th December

We are thrilled to invite you to our whole-school carol concert on 11th December. This special event will include readings and prayers and will take place in our playground. Wrap up warm and join us for festivities filled with music, joy, and mince pies at 2.40pm!



Remembrance Day



On Remembrance Day, all our children took time to learn about its meaning and why it is so important. Some classes completed thoughtful work about remembrance, reflecting on the sacrifices made by others.

At 11 o'clock, the whole school came together to mark the two minutes' silence and listened to the Last Post. Every child was exceptional...quiet, reflective, and deeply respectful throughout. It was a moving moment that showed the maturity and compassion

of our pupils.

Health and Safety

We kindly ask parents to check for head lice and treat promptly to keep our school healthy.

We're also practising efficient playground procedures to ensure children can enter and exit quickly in case of emergencies. These drills are routine and part of our commitment to safety—not in response to any specific incident.



World Kindness Day at Church

On World Kindness Day, our children walked beautifully to church to celebrate this special occasion. Their excellent behaviour and

respectful attitude made us so proud. During the service, the children took part in readings and prayers, sharing messages of kindness and compassion with the whole congregation.

It was a wonderful opportunity for them to reflect on how small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this meaningful experience possible!

Father,

Thank You for loving us every day.
Please help us to care for each other,
to be kind with our words and actions,
and to share Your love with everyone
we meet.

We pray for people in our community
who are feeling sad, lonely, or have lost
someone they love.
Wrap them in Your comfort and peace,
and let them know they are never alone.

Help us to be a light for others,
just as You are a light for us.

Amen

Christmas Preparations

Excitement is building as we prepare to decorate the school! Our Christmas tree arrives next week, and the children can't wait to see it sparkle.

Online Safety Reminder



Please take a moment to review age ratings for apps, games, and films your child uses. These ratings help protect children from unsuitable content.

Consider these tips:

- Discuss age ratings and online safety with your child
- Explore apps and games together
- Set up parental controls
- Keep communication open about online experiences

Cyberbullying Awareness

A trend called "online roasting" has emerged, where people make fun of others online. Please talk to your child about this, ask about their experiences, and seek support if needed. We're here to help.

Celebrating Success

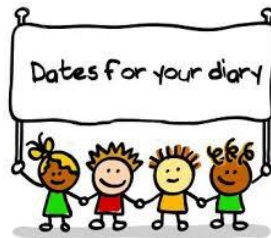
We're proud that some of our Year 6 pupils are attending swimming lessons, and many are making fantastic progress! This is great news as we had 17/29 children in September that could not swim 10 metres.



A Little Help

If anyone has school shoes in size 10.5 for a girl, we would greatly appreciate a donation.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend filled with warmth and joy.



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
December	
Thu 4 Dec	Reception Christmas Party – Afternoon in the classroom. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Thu 11 Dec	Family Christmas Carols Celebration– All welcome
Fri 12 Dec	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Mon 15 Dec	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Tue 16 Dec	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Wed 17 Dec	Walk to Church Service Christmas Dinner. Children to wear something Christmassy
Thu 18 Dec	Last Day of Term
Fri 19 Dec	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils