



# ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back to all our children and families. I hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas break and that 2026 has begun well for you all. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school so settled, positive and ready to learn – and even more special that their first week back was accompanied by a touch of snow!

As the weather has turned colder, I would like to remind families to ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately for winter, with warm coats, hats and gloves. Please also continue to support us by ensuring that all children are wearing the correct school uniform in our school colours, helping us to maintain high standards and a strong sense of identity.

It has already been a busy and fulfilling week at St Mary's. On Thursday, we were blessed to celebrate a beautiful and reverent Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany. The children participated with great respect and reflection, and it was a wonderful way to begin the new year together, rooted in our faith and shared values.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another term of learning, growth and joy together.

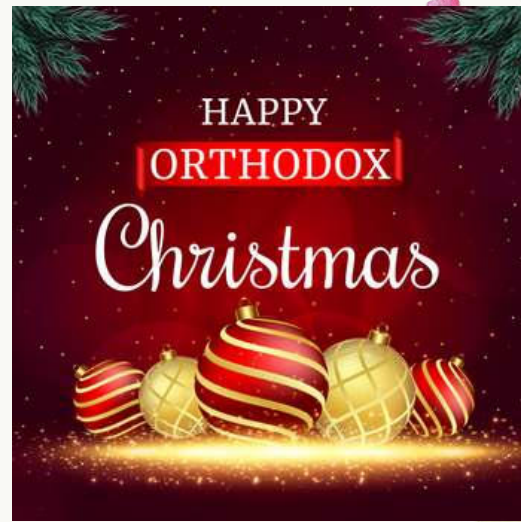
With every blessing,

Miss Black

*Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

## Orthodox Christmas

This week, we shared our warmest wishes with our Orthodox families as they celebrated Orthodox Christmas, joining with them in prayer, joy and community.



## Prayer Bags!

If your child brings home a Prayer Bag, we encourage you to use this as a special opportunity to pray together as a family. You may wish to write a prayer or intention in the family prayer book and create a simple prayer space or altar at home using the items provided. This can be a quiet, reflective moment to share faith together. If you would like to, please feel free to take a photo of your prayer area and send it to the school office – we would love to see how prayer is shared in your homes. Thank you to the students below for sharing their prayer spaces at home.



Bella in Y5



Naod in Y2



Ethan in Y6

# The Epiphany

On Thursday 8th January, we attended Mass together as a school community to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany, also known as the Feast of the Three Kings, is celebrated on 6th January and marks the joyful moment when Jesus was revealed to the world.

This feast commemorates the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men, who travelled from the East, guided by a star, to find and worship the infant Jesus. Their journey reminds us that Jesus came for all people. Traditionally, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated around twelve days after Christ's birth, bringing the Christmas season to a meaningful close.



Noah (Year 6) said that watching the Epiphany story in church made him feel as though he was part of it, leaving him feeling happy and more connected to our Catholic faith.

“This is a very special time for families to spend time together.” Eldana Year 4





“The Three Kings brought gifts to our baby Jesus, and they all have a meaning.”  
Ruby Year 4



## Nursery

The children have settled in beautifully this week and attended their first Star of the Week, where they were wonderfully behaved.

They have been enjoying maths activities, explored the Parable of the Good Samaritan and learned about the Epiphany, and especially loved writing their names in bright rainbow colours.



## Reception

This week in Reception, the children settled back in well after the break. They enjoyed making biscuits, measuring ingredients and mixing them together, linking to early maths. In phonics, we continued developing listening skills and sound awareness. The children also took part in their first dance lesson, focusing on warm-ups, coordination, and learning a simple routine. In music, they enjoyed singing nursery rhymes with actions and exploring rhythm.

## Year 1

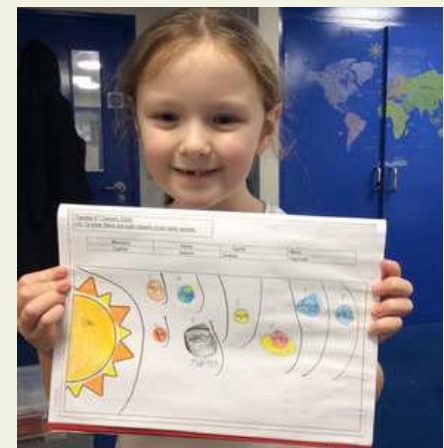
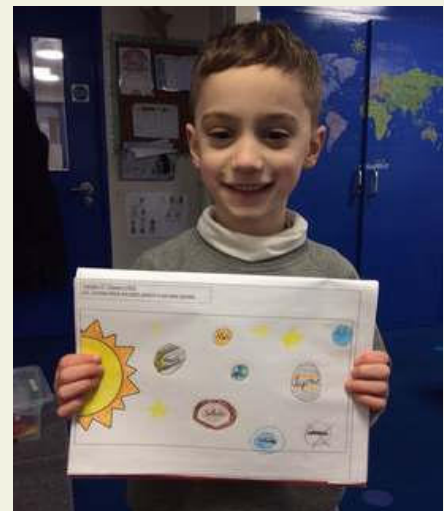
This week in Year 1 PE, pupils enjoyed an active game using coloured cones to practise listening skills and following instructions, with actions changing to add challenge. Manuel shared that “the coach changed the actions for each colour which was a little tricky but I really enjoyed this game.” We thank Fulham Women’s player Beau for once again visiting our school to lead the session.



## Year 2

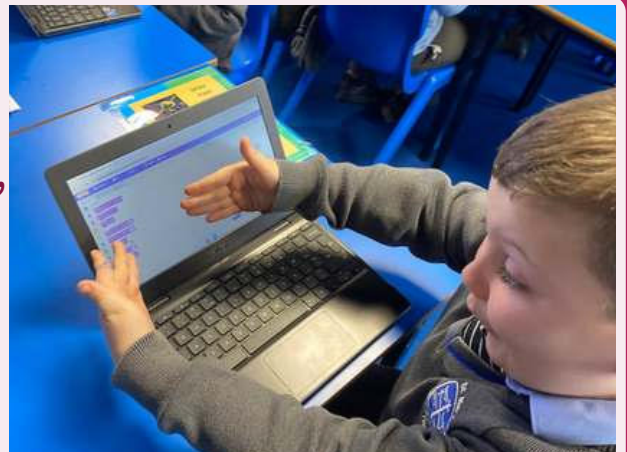
Year 2 have been exploring our solar system and learned that there are eight planets.

They used the mnemonic “My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Nothing” to help put the planets in order from the Sun. As Lev explained, “Mercury is very hot because it’s right next to the Sun.”



### Year 3

This week in Year 3 Computing, pupils were introduced to Scratch, a new programming environment. They explored how Scratch works by identifying sprites, blocks and backdrops, and learned how simple commands can be used to make characters move on screen. Pupils enjoyed experimenting with their own mini projects and confidently built on their previous coding experiences with Scratch Jr and Bee-Bots.



### Year 4

This week in Year 4, collective worship focused on coming together as a community to pray, reflect, and listen to the Word. Pupils took part in prayer and quiet reflection, helping them to deepen their understanding of love, respect and compassion, which are central to our Catholic ethos. Collective worship provided valuable time for pupils to pause, reflect, and grow spiritually together.

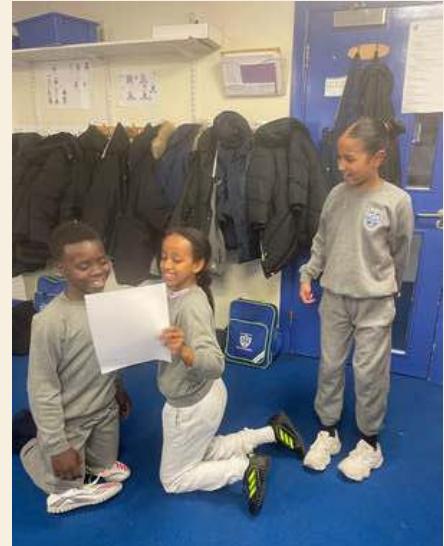
“I like when we gather together in prayer.” – Kaleb

“We learn about love, respect and compassion by praying together.” – Zendaya



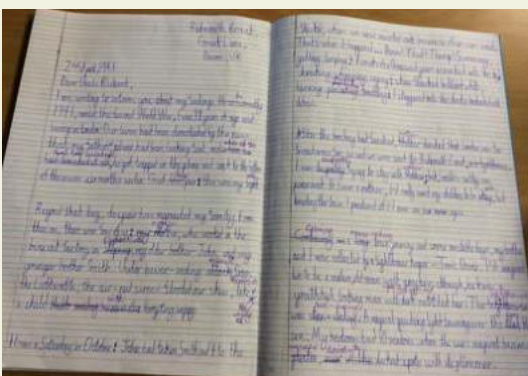
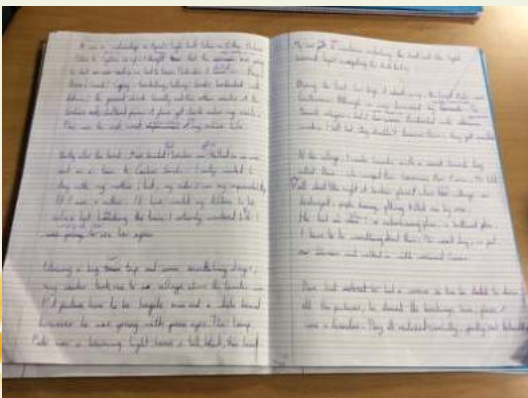
## Year 5

This week in Year 5 RSE, pupils explored the topic of peer pressure through short role-play scenarios. They acted out different situations and then reflected together on each one, discussing how people can be influenced by others to make choices. The children considered that peer pressure can sometimes encourage positive decisions, but can also lead to unhelpful or unsafe choices, and talked about the importance of thinking carefully and making the right decisions for themselves.



## Year 6

All children returned after the New Year with renewed vigour, producing beautiful handwritten letters in guided writing that showcased their ability to write a historical account. Many pupils demonstrated strong empathy and engagement with the topic, with Auriel reflecting, “I felt a lot of empathy for all the children who went through many hardships during the First and Second World War, and I tried very hard to show those feelings in my writing.”





# SPELLINGS

**At St Mary's, we follow the Spelling Frame Programme. Spelling Frame helps children learn:**

- **Spelling rules and patterns**
- **Tricky words**
- **How to apply spellings in their writing**

## ★ Using Spelling Frame at Home

- Log onto your child's Spelling Frame account
- Click on 'Active Tests'
- Click on 'Go to Tests'
- Practice the spellings using the different games

## 🏠 How Else You Can Help at Home

- Look, Cover, Write, Check
- Write sentences with the words
- Say the word → sound it out → spell it
- Write spellings on paper, whiteboards, or even in the air!

## ★ Helpful Spelling Tips

- Break words into syllables
- Look for patterns in words
- Talk about tricky parts together
- Encourage effort – mistakes help us learn!

S.P.0 X

The letter was addressed to the famous detective, \_\_\_\_ Sherlock Holmes.

Mstr Ms Mtr Mr Msr Mrs

Sentence Word 1 / 7

## Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance  
Y3 99.1%



Punctuality  
Y4 100%



## Green stickers and House points

House Points  
1st place TM & A 89  
2nd place JF 85  
3rd place E 81



Green stickers  
Y2 & Y3



## Awards



Sheviah Y1	Dolly Y4	Azaiah Y1
Milan Y1	Ruby Y4	Ezra Y1
Omari Y3	Giovanni Y5	Eldana Y4
Hirad Y6	Alice Y5	
Auriel Y6	Nicolas Y5	
	Venice-Rose Y5	

## Star of the week

★ Nursery: Xavier  
★ Reception: Anaya  
Year 1: John  
Year 2: Ethan  
★ Year 3: Sabrina  
★ Year 4: Eldana  
Year 5: Bella  
★ Year 6: William

## Head Teachers Award

Natari - Year 2



## Important Dates

Mass at Holy Trinity for the Feast of the Epiphany	Thursday 8th January 9:30am
Y6 class assembly	Friday 16th January 9:00am
Into University – Y6 – Engineering focus week	Monday 19th -Friday 23rd January
Movie night EYFS 10:00-11:30am Movie night Y1 – Y6 3:30-5pm	Thursday 22nd January
Y2 Assembly	Friday 6th February
Valentine Dsico EYFS 1:30-3pm Valentine's disco Y1-Y6 3:30-5PM	Thursday 12th February

As the weather has become very cold across London, please can we remind parents to ensure children come to school wearing warm coats each day. This will help keep everyone healthy and well, so they are able to attend school comfortably every day. Thank you for your continued support.

