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St Mary's RC Primary School



Monday 2nd
December 2024



@StMarys_SW8



Dear parents and carers,

The season of Advent is upon us- a time of busyness at home and at school with plenty to enjoy; nativity plays and advent services, lights and decorations, plans to visit friends and family... It can sometimes be easy amongst all the fun and excitement to forget what Advent is really about - a time to pause, reflect, and get ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts.

Please see our important advent dates below.

Monday 2nd December	Dress the Tree day!
Wednesday 11th December	EYFS Nativity at 2pm
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th December	KS2 Advent Service at 2pm
Wednesday 18th December	KS1 Nativity at 2pm

This Advent we are fundraising for CAFOD World Gifts. We aim to raise £300 to 'teach a class to read'. Here at St Mary's we are very proud of the love our pupils and staff have for reading. We recognise that reading is an important life skill but it also provides us with many opportunities; education, work, pleasure, self improvement and more.

The money that is raised will fund literacy classes for vulnerable people.

On Thursday 12th December, we ask all children to wear their Christmas jumper (or something green or red or simply some tinsel!) and to donate £1. We will be accepting cash donations on the day but we have also set up a Just Giving page if you would like to donate online. Please click the link below to donate.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/mary-gilbride-1733141297043?utm_term=xkyyxng3e

End of term

On Friday 20th December school will close early for the Christmas break.

Nursery will finish at 12:45pm and Reception to Y6 will finish at 1pm.

Our Mission Statement

'A man took a grain of mustard seed and sowed it in his field. Indeed the seed is smaller than all other seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches'
Matthew 13.31



Wednesday Word

The Wednesday word this week is **LEADER**

“Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others, leading us on our journey towards eternal life”

Ten:Ten Resources

December 2024

Advent starts right at the beginning of December this year. It's a special time of year and more than just the 'busy run up to Christmas'. Why not take some time, amongst all the busyness, preparations and celebrations that anticipate the coming of Jesus, to pause, reflect and get ready to welcome Jesus with open minds, open hearts and open lives.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout December and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

To read the December 2024 newsletter please click this link here-

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Year of Jubilee

The Assembly for the first week of Advent introduces the Year of Jubilee, which officially begins on Christmas Eve with Pope Francis opening the [Holy Door](#) at St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

A Jubilee Year is an ancient celebration, now celebrated in the Church every 25 years. Pope Francis has named 2025's Year of Jubilee - **Pilgrims of Hope** and it's an invitation to place our hope in God's love for us and to share His love with others. It's a celebration of reconciliation and renewal.

But this is just a taster - you'll hear more about this Holy Year in 2025!



St Mary's RC Primary School

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

**Please be aware that some dates differ from those published by Wandsworth.
These are our term dates for the academic year.**

Autumn Term 2024
INSET Day: 2nd September
First Day: 3rd September
INSET Day: 7th October
Half Term: 28th October to 1st November
INSET Day: 4th November
Last Day: 20th December
Spring Term 2025
First Day: 6th January
Half Term: 17th to 21st February
Last Day: 4th April
Summer Term 2025
First Day: 22nd April
Bank Holiday: 5th May
Half Term: 26th to 30th May
INSET Day: 2nd June
Last Day: 21st July
One INSET Day TBC



St Mary's RC Primary School

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

**Please be aware that some dates differ from those published by Wandsworth.
These are our term dates for the academic year.**

Autumn Term 2025
INSET Day: 1st September
First Day: 2nd September
Half Term: 27th October to 31st October
INSET Day: 3rd November
Last Day: 19th December
Spring Term 2026
First Day: 5th January
Half Term: 16th to 20th February
Last Day: 27th March
Summer Term 2026
First Day: 13th April
Half Term: 25th to 29th May
INSET Day: 1st June
Last Day: 17th July
Two INSET Days TBC



learn to

love to

read

LET'S CHAT, PLAY, SING AND READ TOGETHER!

FREE Sessions for parents and their children
aged 2 to 4 years

Where: St. Mary's Primary School

When: 9.00-9.45 am

Wednesdays 20th, 27th Nov and 4th, 11th Dec 2024
(4 week programme)



Share books



Gifts



Playing
games



Singing



Tips

Please sign up on our website
<https://bit.ly/46syqCb>





Family Hubs Virtual Workshops for Parents/Carers

September - December 2024
Fortnightly Mondays 1 - 2.15pm

New time



Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy some helpful tips and support on a range of topics aimed at the **under 5s** from Wandsworth colleagues and partners, **all online**

Date	Topic	Delivered by:
16 th Sep	Supporting your child's communication, under 3s	Jo Hardman Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
30 th Sep	Using Makaton with Young Children	Jenny Prior Speech and Language Therapist and Makaton Tutor
14 th Oct	How to support your child with social communication differences	Jo Hardman Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
4 th Nov	Pathways of support Concerned about your child's progress? Next steps in support	Monika Hammel-Lobo Lead Early Years SEND Inclusion Advisor (and joined by EY SEND colleague)
18 th Nov	Enjoying time with your child part 1 Understanding their behaviour	Daniel Sellwood and Phoebe Oliver Educational Psychologists
25 th Nov	Enjoying time with your child part 2 Approaches and Strategies for Encouraging Positive Behaviour	Daniel Sellwood and Phoebe Oliver Educational Psychologists
2 nd Dec	Introducing Solids	Daisy Gresswell Infant Feeding and Healthy Weight Team Lead
16 th Dec	Developing a love of reading through play	Tara Coffin Director, Learn to love to Read

For more information and to book a place please email

Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Or call/text on 07974 586467

Or scan the QR code below to join



Wandsworth
Health4Life

learn to
love to
read

