



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

A Community of Faith and Learning Following Jesus in all we think, do and say

Shrewsbury Road, Bayswater, London W2 5PR
Telephone: 020 7792 1883 Email: office@stmaryangels.co.uk
Website: www.stmaryangels.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs S Alley

Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter: Friday 12th December 2025

Sister Silvana Visit: Tuesday 25th November

At St. Mary of the Angels Primary School, all pupils are encouraged to actively participate in our school's Catholic life. The children show great enthusiasm for promoting the Mission of our school and are always keen to suggest ideas and organise activities that benefit other pupils and members of the local community that are in need. Sister Silvana and Nigel (the penguin) visited our school on Tuesday 25th to launch the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar and to speak to our pupils about the Caritas Ambassadors programme for primary schools. This is a programme which aims to equip pupils with a strong understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and how to put it into action in our daily lives. From Sister Silvana's visit, our pupils, staff and the community here at St. Mary's have really taken on their Mission in supporting this initiative this year, please see below for more information.



Caritas Advent Giving Calendar

We would like to express our gratitude for your incredible support of our recent social action project and your generous contributions to our Caritas Advent Giving Calendar. The team at the Westbourne Park Pantry were deeply moved and extremely grateful to receive such an overwhelming amount of support. Your donations will make a significant difference to those in need within our community during this Advent season. This project reflects the strength and compassion within our school community, and we are so proud to see such a collective effort in bringing hope and kindness to others.



Thank you once again from the Caritas Ambassadors for helping us make this year's initiative so impactful and meaningful.

Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral: Wednesday 3rd December

Our Year 6 pupils joined other schools across our diocese at the annual Catholic Children's Society Christmas Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 3rd December. It is a long-standing tradition that Year 6 attend this event in their final year at St. Mary of the Angels. Another tradition is the presence of a real-life donkey and a goat, which the children enjoyed seeing! The readings, drama and carols beautifully retold the events leading up to and following the birth of Jesus and it was wonderful to share the experience with so many other schools. The children especially enjoyed the entertaining retelling of the nativity and the wonderful singing of the carols by the choirs and the very vocal goat! If you would like, you can find out more about the charity's work by clicking [here](#). Thank you, Year 6, for representing our school so well.



Strings Concert for Parents: Wednesday 3rd December

Last Wednesday, our violin and cello students performed a concert for their parents and carers in the school hall. All students played their pieces beautifully, showcasing the skills they have been taught this year. A special thank you to our music teachers; Miss McCarthy (violin) and Miss Lorimier (cello) who help and support our young musicians throughout the year and prepared them beautifully for the concert. There will be further opportunities for instrumental students to showcase their talents again later in the academic school year.

Key Stage 2 Carol Service: Thursday 4th December

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who made our Key Stage 2 Carol Service such a memorable event. To our teachers and support staff, your hard work and guidance in helping the children prepare for the service is appreciated. Thank you to our talented pupils, your beautiful performances were a true testament to your effort and creativity, and we couldn't be prouder of you! A special thank you to our choir leader, Mr Foster, who prepared and lead the school choir so beautifully and to Miss McCarthy, our Violin Teacher, who accompanied Mr Foster with the music throughout the service. Finally, to our audience, thank you all for joining us and for your respectful and warm appreciation of our pupils' hard work.



Whole School Mass: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Thank you to our parish family, staff and pupils who attended Mass on Monday 8th December for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by Mgr. Keith and Fr. Michael. The attentiveness and reverence the children showed in Mass is a credit to their parents and the school. Thank you to the children for their beautiful readings and participation in the mass - all hymns were carefully selected in order to give thanks to Our Lady.

Tri-borough Music Hub Christmas Festival: Tuesday 9th December

On Tuesday this week Year 5 were lucky enough to be able to sing in the Christmas Festival for the Tri-borough music hub at Kensington Town Hall, along with 300 children from primary schools across Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. The children sang Christmas carols beautifully alongside a live orchestra, having learnt songs in English, French and Makaton! This was an amazing experience for the Herons and they all had a wonderful, festive time.

Ms Smaller, Year 5 Class Teacher

Foundation Stage Nativity: Wednesday 10th December

We were delighted that so many parents/carers and extended family members could join us for the Foundation Stage Nativity on Wednesday. As always thank you to the dedicated team of staff who worked so hard to ensure that the scene was set to showcase the children's marvellous singing and acting, and to give all gathered a warm welcome. The children were so excited to perform on stage for you and truly put on a wonderful show for their first Nativity- A Wiggly Nativity! Please look at our school's website in the coming days to view a selection of pictures from recent events. We now look forward to welcoming the parents and carers of pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 for their performance which will take place on **Tuesday 16th December at 2:30pm.**

Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 11th December

Yesterday, pupils and staff were invited to wear a Christmas jumper and make a voluntary donation to help support **Save the Children**. There were lots of wonderful designs and the children looked wonderful in their festive jumpers and clothing. I'm thrilled to announce that we have raised a total of £268.92! Thank you for supporting your child in raising funds for this vital cause.

Christmas Lunch: Thursday 11th December

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to our amazing catering team Mr. Vacarri, Mrs Coldham, Mrs Benhalima and Miss Mohamed for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Your commitment to providing delicious and nutritious meals for our pupils is truly appreciated. A special note of gratitude for the wonderful Christmas lunch you prepared yesterday for the children. It was a festive and memorable treat that brought so much joy to everyone!



Class Christmas Party: Thursday 18th December

We are delighted to announce that our end of year Christmas class parties will be held on **Thursday 18th December**. This festive occasion promises to be a joyful celebration for all pupils. We kindly request that pupils bring in a small snack or party food to share with their classmates; however, please ensure that these items do not contain nuts or chocolate, in consideration of allergies and dietary restrictions. Furthermore, children are encouraged to come to school dressed in their party attire, such as Christmas jumpers or other festive clothing. We appreciate your support in making this event a memorable one for our students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Online Safety Newsletter: December 2025

Please take a few minutes to read our **December Online Safety Newsletter** [here](#), which includes information regarding receiving new technology or related games at Christmas. In the newsletter it sets out the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls. Thank you for working with us to promote a safe digital environment for every child

Winter Weather

Now that the weather is feeling more wintery, please ensure your child comes to school each day dressed appropriately for the weather. Below are links to two leaflets you may find helpful:

Keeping warm and well: staying safe in cold weather – easy read [click here](#)

Is my child too ill for school? [click here](#)

School Lunch: January -March 2026

Please [click here](#) to view the updated menu for January- March 2026.

Clubs Reminder

A reminder to parents/ carers that next week there will be no after school clubs, and the school closes at 1:30 on Friday 19th December. Junior Adventures Group (JAG) will remain open next week, usual hours Monday-Thursday and 1:30-4:30 on Friday 19th December. [Click here](#) to book.

School Tours for Prospective Parents

Prospective parents/carers whose child is due to start Reception or Nursery in September 2026, are encouraged to visit the school for a tour with a member of the senior leadership team. Further information on admissions can be found [here](#). The final scheduled school tour is on Thursday 8th January at 10am. The tour lasts approximately 30 minutes and must be booked in advance. To book a place, please contact the school office on 020 7792 1883 or email office@stmaryangels.co.uk

Catholic Life and Mission of the School

Advent is a season of preparation and expectation as we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and look forward to his second coming. This four-week journey invites us to focus on hope, peace, joy, and love, fostering a spirit of prayer, reflection, and anticipation.

Week 1: The prophecy candle (purple) represents **HOPE**. During the first week of Advent we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.

Week 2: The Bethlehem candle (purple) represents **PEACE**. During this second week of Advent, we remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Week 3: The shepherd's candle (pink) represents **JOY**. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt at the birth of Jesus.

Week 4: The angel's candle (purple) represents **LOVE**. During this final week of Advent, we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

On Christmas Day we light the Christ candle (white) that represents Jesus' birth



Catholic Life Resources at home

Families are invited to use the Wednesday Word, published weekly, and the Ten Ten Parent Newsletter, published monthly, to support you practise your faith together at home. [Click here](#) to access the Wednesday Word Gospel reflection.



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL
WITH SCHOOLS,
PARENTS & FAMILIES

RE Newsletter

Ten Ten's December newsletter is now available for you to read [here](#).

Assemblies and Prayer Services

Please [click here](#) for upcoming dates for the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

Advent and Christmas Dates

December continues the season of Advent, a time of joyful waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and his return at the end of time. Advent reminds us that God's light shines in the darkness, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love.

Tuesday 16th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity 2:30pm (parents/carers)
Wednesday 17th December	Special Visitor to the School
Thursday 18 th December	Class Christmas Party-own clothes day
Friday 19th December	End of term 2/ School closed at 1:30pm for Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January	School Closed-Inset day
Tuesday 6th January	School opens: Start of Term 3

Prayer

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:
As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to
welcome you now with love.
Amen**

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Alley
Headteacher

Mrs Hough
Deputy Headteacher

Miss Hulands
Assistant Headteacher