



### Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 16th December**  
**Last day of term**

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**Thursday 17th December**  
**2020 - Friday 1st January**  
**2021**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

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**Children return to school on**  
**Monday 4th January**

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### PEACE

This half-term we have been exploring Peace in many ways, including how we can lead peaceful lives and make our school community a peaceful place. We explored Peace around the world and how we can help to become peacemakers. We also thought about Jesus being the Prince of Peace and linked this to Advent leading to the birth of Jesus. We lit a candle for Peace and created Peace symbols to remind us of our peaceful community.

**Isaiah 9: 2-6** *'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... for unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.'*

Respect

Peace

Love

Forgiveness

Responsibility

Faith

# St Mary's Newsletter

News for our families and friends

[www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)



Wednesday 16th December 2020

Volume 42

Dear Parents and Carers,

How quickly time has flown since the beginning of the academic year and we find ourselves at the Christmas break. I would like to thank our wonderful children for their focus and hard work throughout the term.

They have enjoyed learning from an enriching curriculum and we are very proud of their achievements and progress. As always, we have managed to pack a huge amount into the last seven weeks, much of which is highlighted in this edition of the newsletter. Although we were not able to have a Christmas Fayre this year, I was delighted to see such overwhelming support for our Christmas raffle and Santa visit. These events raised over £1,000! None of this would have been possible without the support of our parents and carers, the 'Friends of St Mary's' and our school community. To everyone that made this happen and supported the event, thank you.

Another highlight was our Christmas Nativity performance and choral speaking, our children projected their voices and performed with such confidence. A huge thank you to our parents who helped the children to learn their lines and to our dedicated staff team who wrote the script and made costumes for the children. I need to say a special thank you to our talented Governor Mr Stringfellow, who recorded the performance for us to enjoy. [The performance can be viewed on our school website by clicking here.](#)

Throughout the term, our staff have worked incredibly hard as we continue to improve the quality of education that we provide for our pupils. I would like to publicly thank each one of them for their unwavering commitment and for the contribution that they make to St Mary's school.

I am pleased to announce that we have arranged for a £30 Asda food voucher and Christmas hamper for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. The vouchers have been sent out to eligible families this week. I am conscious that some families may not know whether they are entitled to free school meals so we are encouraging all of our families to apply by following this link: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>.

On behalf of the staff and governors at St Mary's Primary School, I would like to wish all pupils and parents a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Best wishes  
Ms Bernard



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

St Mary's is an Excellent School



### Message from Father Steve

Dear friends,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well as we come to the end of such a difficult year. Everyone at St Mary's School has done an incredible job, as have all of you as parents and carers. Our thanks to Ms Bernard and all the staff – and especially to our children, for just being wonderful!

As I write we might be about to go into Tier 3, with even tighter restrictions. The birth of Jesus our Saviour is described as God's light, shining in the darkness of our world. And the darkness cannot overcome that Light. Hold on to the light of Jesus in the coming days. God will keep us safe in his loving arms – trust in Him.

And don't forget: PLEASE get the vaccination, for you and your children, as soon as it's available next year. It's the right thing to do.

May your Christmas be filled with God's light and peace and joy, shared with those you love most. And every blessing for a better year ahead.

Fr Steve and all at St Mary's church

Join our services online: <https://www.lewishamparish.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/lewishamparishchurch/>



### Farewell to Colin Powell

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Colin who is retiring after many years of service as the Director of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. As a Church of England school, we are proud to be a part of our Diocesan family, which covers over 80 schools across South London. We have been well supported by Colin over the years and we thank him for all that he has given our school and wish him well for the future.



### Thank you Reverend Charles & Projectfivek

Many families at St Mary's will have received a food bag over the past few months and more recently some families have received food vouchers to help with shopping costs. This has all been thanks to Reverend Charles - a long time supporter of St Mary's school and his new charity called Projectfivek, which aims to feed those families who might otherwise struggle to make ends meet. We are so grateful to Charles and his wife for their hard work and support of the families in our school this year. They really have made a difference!

*"The vouchers have been very useful, they have helped to put food on many families' tables. The food makes a real difference to families' lives. We would like to thank Reverend Charles."*  
Parent of a child in Year 6



### FOOD BANKS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We appreciate that for some of our families, this is a challenging time and you may require extra support with receiving food. If you have any concerns, either financial or practical, about feeding your family, please get in touch with our School Home Support Worker, Marta Tildesley, by emailing the school at:

[admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

or by ringing the school on **0208 6902613**

or Mrs Tildesley on **07811 997648**



### Lewisham Mayoresses Christmas Hampers

St Mary's were delighted to be chosen to receive nearly 100 Christmas Hampers, which have been distributed to our families. Many thanks to the Mayoresses of Lewisham, Dawn Atkinson, Natasha Ricketts and Christine Norman for their generosity in helping to fund, pack and deliver the hampers. Our Midday Meals Supervisor, Charlene Whyte also supported the project and nominated St Mary's.



### Lewisham Youth Theatre

The drama continues with Lewisham Youth Theatre! Amy Lewis from LYT came to St Mary's to work with a group from Years 5 and 6. She was really impressed with their energy and enthusiasm. Three children have now been chosen to continue working with LYT from January on a short 4 week project. We look forward to seeing the results!



### Santa's Elves

A huge thank you to our parents who came to help wrap Santa's presents in the Community Hub. There were a lot of presents to wrap (over 200) and they did a great job! Friends of St Mary's also donated class presents which Santa delivered on his rounds - two games and activities for each class to use when it's too wet to go outside at playtime. A big thank you for all the fundraising from the parents of the school which has made this possible.



### Our Vision

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).





### Christmas lunch 2020!

The Hall was decorated, crackers were being pulled, the music was playing and all of the children enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch together.



### Christmas Raffle 2020!

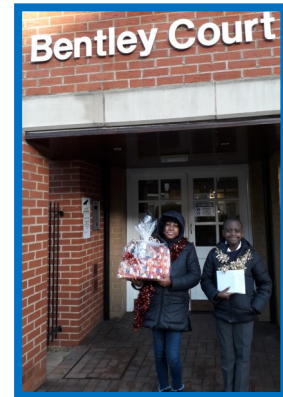
Many thanks to everyone who bought a ticket for this year's raffle - every pound raised goes directly to supporting the children's learning. Many thanks to all of the parents and local businesses who donated prizes, we had 28 great prizes and we sold well over a thousand tickets! The draw was made on Tuesday 15th December by Father Steve and parents from the Friends of St Mary's. Congratulations to all of the winners!





### Sharing Christmas cheer with our local Community

Years 5 & 6 have been busy making beautiful Christmas cards for the Elderly Care Unit at Lewisham Hospital and for the residents of Bentley Court, a local home for the elderly. With donations of mince pies and chocolates the children were able to deliver lovely hampers together with the cards to the hospital and Bentley Court in a socially distanced manner. It is so important to keep up these connections with the elderly as they will be feeling particularly vulnerable and isolated at this time. Well done Years 5 & 6!



### Citizens UK and Lewisham Hospital

Our Year 5 & 6 children have been doing some real courageous advocacy! After hearing that some people without settled status are getting charged for routine operations at hospitals including Lewisham, they decided to create some Christmas cards to the CEO Mr Travis with a strong message. The cards were then delivered by some of the children to the hospital with a naughty or nice bag. It is amazing to see our children campaigning for a more just and fair system for all.



### Selfridges Department Store

We are very grateful to Selfridges, a historic store in the centre of London. During the November lockdown they donated many food items to the school. In addition, they donated a luxury hamper as a raffle prize.



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### Reception class

Reception have been getting into the spirit of Christmas. They have learnt to wrap presents and write cards in the Elves' Workshop, practised their counting skills and even made some soup for Santa's reindeers. A child drew a pastel portrait of Santa to make sure we recognised him when he visited.



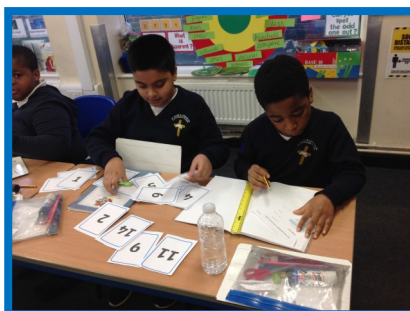
### Growth Mindset

Children and staff have been learning these positives ways to help us as learners:

- **Challenges help me grow my brain**
- **I learn from my mistakes**
- **I can't do it yet**
- **What other strategy can I try?**

### Year 4 - Maths Problem Solving

The children enjoyed investigating **Maths** Problems, using collaboration to work with a partner. They learned how to work systematically in order to ensure that they had found all of the solutions.



### Active Learning in Year 3

**Science** - This term we have been exploring solids, liquids and gases. We carried out an investigation, looking at different materials and identifying the properties which made them either a solid or liquid.

**Destination Reader** - Year 3 have really been enjoying destination reader and have already read a range of texts as well as learning to use a range of reading strategies such as clarifying, predicting, asking questions and summarising. We created freeze frames of different parts of the story we were reading.



### Special days in Nursery

Nursery have been looking at special days and how our families celebrate birthdays, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. We had fun at Kipper's birthday party, made patterns for Diwali, blew bubbles, painted fireworks and learnt about the Nativity story. It was a busy half-term, we are more settled on the carpet, eager to learn and we have made close friendships.



### Year 5 are portrait artists

This half-term in **Art**, we have been learning about portraits. We looked at different types of portraits, including police sketch artists' work and portraits by a person who has face blindness (she cannot recognise faces). We then tried some of our own. We found it really tricky to draw accurately and in detail but we are all making lots of progress!

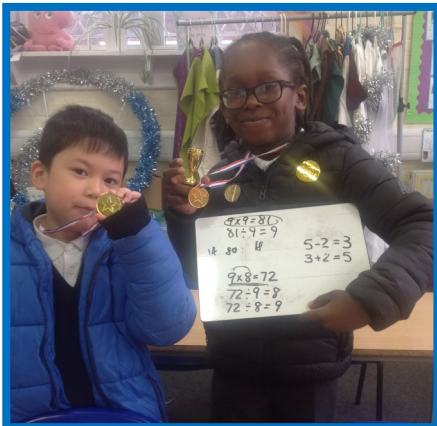


### Investigating materials in Year 1

Year One have been learning about materials and their properties. We made a lego house and investigated which material would be best to make a roof for our house.

*"I would use bricks because it is rigid and waterproof." Lucian*

*"Paper is not good because it is absorbent." Sarai*



### Year 2 are Maths stars!

The children have been working hard to make good progress in learning their times tables and number facts. Well done to everyone who took part in the Times Table Challenge. We have also been solving **Maths** problems.



### Detective work in Year 6

**Design Technology** - This term, we decided to create our own board game. Taking inspiration from the famous game 'Guess Who', we talked about the main features; we came up with the idea to create a maths game to improve our knowledge of place value and named it 'Guess My Number? / What's My Number?'.

Following this, we created a prototype of our board game. To make sure our prototype was functional and appealing to children of our age, we created flaps (moveable parts) and stops.



**Science** - Early one morning, Year 6 came into school and discovered someone had made a mess in their classroom; the person left a note, which had got wet. Year 6 decided to become budding detectives. They used a variety of apparatus to separate the mixtures on the tables in order to clear them up. Once they had cleared up the mess, they used their skills in chromatography to find out which pen was used to write the note.

**ST MARY'S LEWISHAM  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

329 Lewisham High  
Street, SE13 6NX

Phone: 020 8690 2613  
E-mail: [admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

Friends of St Mary's  
email address:  
[fosm@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:fosm@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk)

**Parents news**

We welcome all parents to join the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) and support the school with fundraising events and other ways to improve the school for our children. Email at the above address or speak to a member of staff to find out more!



**HELP AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

**E - Safety**

Please continue to be aware of what your child is doing online, especially at this time when they may be spending extra time learning and socialising online. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- [Internet matters](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - support to keep children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers
- [Kiddle](#) and [KidRex](#) - child friendly search engines

**Mental health and Wellbeing**

Please can we ask you to keep the school up to date with any concerns you have regarding your children's mental health and wellbeing. If your child is finding it hard to cope with the changes to their lives, or a family member is ill or has died, please let us know. St Mary's school are here to work with you to support our children's emotional needs in any way that we can. Here are some links to places where families can find additional support:

- [Every mind matters](#) - mental health advice from the NHS including a section on looking after children during the coronavirus outbreak
- [Government guidance for parents and carers](#) - supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
- [Corona virus guide for children](#) - this guide has been produced for Autistic children and offers a simple and visual guide to what is happening
- [How to wash your hands safely](#) - BBC Newsround video
- [Children's Commissioner](#) - a guide for children and links to resources
- [Childhood Bereavement Network](#) - support around dealing with the coronavirus pandemic for all children, specifically those that have experienced the death of someone important to them

**TERM DATES**

**Autumn Term 2020**

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Thursday 17th December - Friday 1st January**

**Spring Term 2021**

**Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February**

**HALF TERM - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February**

**Monday 22nd February - Wednesday 31st March**

**EASTER HOLIDAYS - Thursday 1st April - Friday 16th April**

**Summer Term 2021**

**Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May**

**MAY DAY Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May**

**HALF TERM - Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June**

**Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July**

**INSET DAYS - Friday 18th June / Monday 5th July / Thursday 22nd July**