

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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The Fourth Sunday of Advent 2020

RE: Weekly Update for all parents

"I am the Handmaid of the Lord" said Mary "let what you have said be done to me".

Last night the Government published new guidance for schools and we are busy looking through it today to prepare and brief staff. If there are implications for us (or if our start day is delayed) we will notify you via the App. Should Santa bring you a new mobile for Christmas please remember to download and set it up – including allowing notifications. Click here for instructions: www.bit.ly/SMIAPP.

So we've come to the new of term and the end of 2020. What a year! News of the vaccine fills us with hope for 2021 and in school we'll be part of the asymptomatic weekly tests for adults. This will involve all of the school staff who want to take part. We look forward to testing and vaccinations being rolled out to everyone.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful adults who work here and make St Mary's such a wonderful community. They've all striven so hard to keep the children and each other safe in these difficult circumstances. I am so proud of each and everyone of them. Thank you! I'm also proud of how, as a community, we've worked together to keep everyone safe. At one stage it looked like we were not going to have any positive cases in school at all! As we get to the last day of term I'm really pleased that we are open for all children and that we've only had 4 confirmed cases in the whole of 2020. Please try to keep to the rules wherever you are so that we can welcome all the children back to school on Monday 4th January.

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

Christmas will be very different this year - whatever you are doing take care. Please remember those who are on their own and those who have lost someone recently – Samir, a member of our catering team, lost her dad this week.

Thank you for all of your Christmas wishes and presents they are very much appreciated!

We wish you all a happy and safe Feast of Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our Christmas celebrations have been very different this year as we were not able to hold any Christmas performances. We had planned to send you a video of all of the classes taking part in a whole school (bubble by bubble production) but sadly COVID 19 caught up with us at the worst time and we have not been able to put it together. We are sorry for this.

The most important message that God took on human form and was born as a baby – Jesus Christ – has been our core message this year. This is in Religious Education and across the whole school. Throughout the classes and year groups children have been taking part in a whole range of fun Christmas activities:

Looked at Christmas Traditions around the world.

Learnt about Midnight mass, traditional dishes, the Epiphany and many more.

Wrote an Advent promise.

Wrote a Christmas wish for the world.

Created a class advent calendar with each child decorating a door that reveals a prayer and good deed for each day of advent

Made a handprint advent wreath and have 'lit' each week's candle

Made prayer angel decorations

Enjoyed daily visits from a “shepherd and a sheep” as part of Shepherds on the search – he’s still trying to find his sheep!

Made Christmas tree ornaments

Learnt Christmas poems

Listened and danced to Christmas songs

Retold the Christmas story using props

Helped to decorate the classroom and Christmas tree

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

Learnt about the Jesse Tree and made baubles for it

Made Christmas angels and Christmas hats for the Christmas lunch

Learnt about The Grinch and acted it out

Learnt about "The Jolly Christmas Postman"

Decorated angels

We dressed Paper gingerbread men up in winter clothing (using real fabric)

Written Christmas thank you cards to our postmen and decorated them

Heard stories and music related to Europe where we have compared Christmas traditions in Poland, Italy, Russia and Ireland with those in the UK.

Made Nutcracker inspired Christmas cards

24 days of advent bauble hunt

Salt dough Christmas tree decorations

Learning Away in a Manger

Made Christmas crowns to wear

Wore crowns for We Three Kings

Used the Pointillism technique to create holly, Christmas wreaths, Christmas trees and stars.

Watched the CAFOD nativity service via video.

Learnt to sing parts of Ding Dong Merrily on High (in small groups)

Had Christmas dinner together in Christmas jumpers

Researched how Christmas is celebrated in different cultures around the world and created VENN diagrams and posters to present our findings.

Made Christmas cards in Italian.

Painted street art inspired Christmas artwork.

Solving 'The mystery of Santa's missing parcel' through maths clues

Pondered festive riddles

Watched Christmas films whilst eating lunch and listened to (instrumental) Christmas music too

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

We hope this list gives you an idea of how busy we have been. Almost as busy as Santa's Elves I bet!

So once again – Happy Christmas to you all from all of us!

Thank you for your support in 2020.

F Marsh

Headteacher

PS Wondered where the Christmas tree that was in Memorial Square is now? Have a look outside of Isleworth station...

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