



St Edward's Newsletter

20th December 2024



Dear St Edward's Family,

We are sure you will love this wonderful Christmas edition of our newsletter, which showcases some of our events during the period of Advent.

It was lovely to see our children in Early Years and Key Stage One perform their Nativity play, with beautiful songs and very proud parents. Well done to all the children and a huge thank you to staff who worked tirelessly over a number of weeks to prepare for this year's Nativity play. Our pupils in Key Stage 2 led a magnificent Carol Concert in Our Lady of Compassion Church. The service was a traditional concert, whereby the congregation were actively involved in singing all the traditional Christmas hymns. So a big thank to all of our staff for this event as well.

In addition, we have held some wonderful Christmas Discos and enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch, in the company of Father Christmas himself and his elves. Children and staff also participated in the Rudolph Run on Christmas Jumper day which was a Trust initiative. In addition, we have had Class Parties and a beautiful Christmas Mass, so we are well prepared to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. Our choir sang at Newham General Hospital and some of our Pupil Parliament children designed Christmas cards that were given to St Barts. We would like to say a huge thank you to our staff for all their hard work and support this term and to our PTA who have organised some fantastic events as well as raising money for the school.

Every day, we have seen the Christmas spirit in action and are reminded of the real reason for the season. It is important to remember that Christmas can be great for so many but also challenging for some as well. Therefore, we ask God to help us remember all of those less fortunate than ourselves. We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and blessings for the New Year ahead. We look forward to welcoming our children back to school for the start of the spring term on Tuesday the 7th of January 2025.

God's Blessing – Mr Underwood



'Following Christ we reach our goals'

Christmas Card Project & Choir

Children in our Pupil Parliament made cards for each department at St Barts to spread some Christmas cheer amongst the patients and staff there. Our choir also performed at Newham General Hospital. The doctors, nurses and patients were delighted to meet the children and hear them sing. We even made it to the Newham Recorder who published this story along with some photos.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'

Born to Perform!

Children who were part of this term's Performing Arts club put on a fabulous show staff and pupils as well as their parents. There was singing, dancing, rapping, performing poetry and pianists. A real explosion of talent was seen which showcased what children have been learning in their lessons. It was also good to see how confident the children were in performing and how they worked together as a team. A huge thank you to Ms Austin and Ms Gibson who supported the children over the last few weeks to get ready for their performance. Well done to everyone!



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



Children's Christmas Lunch

The children enjoyed their Christmas lunch with delicious food and they even had a chance to meet Santa in his grotto where every child also got a gift. Our Pupil Parliament children also created an eye-catching display for this Christmas themed lunch. Thank you to Santa's elves who worked very hard to ensure that the children had a wonderful day.

'Following Christ we reach our goals'

Rock Steady Extravaganza

Children in our Rock Steady groups put on a melodious performance for their peers and parents. All their hard work over the term paid off as they sang and played various instruments. A super show which highlighted what budding stars we have amongst our school community.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



Christmas Jumper Day & the Rudolph Run

Taking part in the Rudolph Run as part of our Trust initiative. Children and staff had a lot of fun and raised money that went to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.





**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

EYFS & KS1 Nativity

A Bundle of Joy was the theme for this year's EYFS & KS1 Nativity play. Beautiful singing, dancing and acting. The children put on a magnificent show. Thank you to all the staff and in particular to Mrs Mc Mahon and Ms Sandy for leading this play.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



KS2 Carol Concert



A brilliant show with the singing of traditional hymns, actions and playing instruments to accompany the beautiful music. Well done to KS2 and the staff who supported the children and Ms Ranthe who coordinated this event.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



Christmas Disco

The celebrations continued with the PTA disco where children and parents boogied the night away. Everyone looked amazing in their party outfits and enjoyed the delicious food that was on offer. Once again thank you to our hard working PTA team who organised another fantastic event.



Year 1 - Iris	Ava-Rose
Year 1 - Poppy	Sufya
Year 2 - Lilly	Amarissa
Year 2 - Rose	Laurels
Year 3 - Ivy	Marley-Rae
Year 3 - Fern	Alex
Year 4 - Thistle	Grynelle
Year 4 - Heather	Lianaya
Year 5 - Ash	Melany
Year 5 - Beech	Vinay
Year 6 - Elm	Lotachi
Year 6 - Oak	Mahzala

Congratulations to our Scientists of the term. These children demonstrated good scientific knowledge as well as supporting their peers with scientific enquiry.

We had our Christmas raffle on the last day of term. The winners were picked during an assembly with the whole school. Certificates for the Summer Reading Challenge were also given out and attendance of the term went to **Thistle class** who were top of the table so well done to them. The choir also sang beautiful renditions of Silent Night and Little Donkey. What a wonderful way to end the term. Our raffle winners were:

Remi in Lily class

Zia in Rose class

Ariyah in Rose class

Mr Morgan

Children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge

Acorn- Izabella

Iris- Amal, Xamantha

Poppy - Ava-Mae, Sufia, Hugo

Rose- Amalia, Laurels, Sophia-Rose, Sri, Deepika

Lily - Caleb, Alexander, Ella

Fern- Ozioma, Melita

Thistle - Alicja, Karlos,

Heather - Zahi, Hugo, Zara

Ash - Alise, Chloe, Rehoboth

Beech - Faith, John, Sohana,

Oak - Abigail, Chiamaka, Jack

Elm- Filipe, Zara

IMPORTANT DATES TO **REMEMBER**

Monday 23rd Dec to Monday 6th Jan 2025 – Christmas break

Monday 6th January – INSET day – school closed

Tuesday 7th January – pupils return to school

Wednesday 8th January – Whole School Mass at church

Wednesday 15th January – Reception admissions deadline

Friday 17th January – Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea

Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February - Aspirations Week

Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February – HALF TERM

Wednesday 5th March – Whole School Mass

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Wednesday 12th March – Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday 20th March – Mother's Day Event

Friday 4th April – END of Spring Term

PLEASE NOTE – these dates may be subject to change

Friday 20th December - Today's Gospel reading: John 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Friday 20th December - Today's Gospel reflection

The other day, through His angel, God encountered Zechariah and revealed His plan for the birth of John the Baptist in the womb of the barren Elizabeth. Today, God through His angel encounters the virgin Mary and reveals His plan for the birth of Jesus, the Saviour in her virginal womb. But if we analyse a little, the immediate consequences of such a happening, that is the birth of a child, are contrasting. In the case of Elizabeth, it is in fact, a great grace, a matter to rejoice. Her barrenness would be eliminated. But in the case of Mary, it is a matter of disgrace. Her dignity would come under suspicion.

Here comes the great depth of Mary's faith. Once she knows that it is all God's plan, there is no more question. No argument, no reluctance, no hesitation. No seeking concession. No request for making things clear to her family. No worries at all about the future consequences of a suspect pregnancy. Her faith comprises profound humility, wholehearted docility, and an unreserved surrender. She declares emphatically, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word".