

# Our Lady and Saint George's Catholic Primary & Nursery School

Headteacher: Ms R McGlynn

Shernhall Street, Walthamstow, London E17 3EA



15th December 2023



## Newsletter 7

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is almost here with only 3 days left next week. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the blessings and joy of the Christmas season. Your support and cooperation over the last year has been very much appreciated.

**Don't Forget** on **Wednesday 20th December 2023** school finishes 1 hour early -  
Upper Site 2pm Lower Site 2:10pm  
Nursery 2:15pm Childcare Provision 5pm

Your child's first day back after the Christmas holiday will be **Monday 8th January 2024**

### School Trips, Workshops and Events

On **Tuesday 5th December** out year 3 children went to Waltham Abbey and took part in workshops learning all about the Stone Age.

On **Friday 8th December** - 5 children who have been working with the Caedmon Theatre Company went to the Criterion Theatre and had the chance to be stars for the day in a West End theatre.

Last week 6 of our children took part in a swimming Panathlon Event at the Aquatics centre in Olympic Park. They all received medals for their events and were proud to show them off back at school. 15 pupils from Year 3 & 4 enjoyed two days of cycle training hosted by Bikeability. Year 5&6 will have the opportunity to have lessons in the Spring term. Further information will be sent to those year groups.

On **Sunday 10th December** pupils from our Mini Vinnies group helped out at the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas lunch. Pupils helped to serve food and drinks to members of our parish community, sang Christmas carols and even joined in with some dancing. Well done children and thank you.

On **Monday 11th December** our chess club took part in the London Classic Chess Challenge at Regent's Park and really showed their skills in chess. A big thank you to Mrs Kagoya for providing the children with the opportunity to take part in an after school sports club and helping them to reach this standard.

On **Thursday 14th December** the Upper Site choir visited Highcroft Care Home in Walthamstow and sang Christmas Carols to the residents. They were joined by students from Holy Family Catholic School and really sang beautifully. The residents thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas sing song. Next week, some of our year 6 children will visit Branches, the homeless charity on Forest Road to sing to the residents and to bring gifts from money raised from the sale of wrapping paper that they have made.

## Carol Services

It was lovely to see the huge turnout of parents at our Carol Service on Wednesday in Church for our Year 1 to 6 Carol Service. The singing was awesome, the tableau was beautiful and the readings delivered with clarity. The children from right across the school really showcased their beautiful voices. A big thank you to Mrs Quinton for all her hard work in preparing the children and to the Year 2 team for the beautiful tableau and additional musicians.

On Thursday Nursery also had a Carol service and were assisted by some of our pupil chaplains from Year 5 and some of our pathfinders from Year 2. It was lovely to see the parents joining in with the singing of many of our traditional Christmas carols.

On Monday Reception class will also be having a carol service and we look forward to seeing our parents there and joining in. A big thank you to Mrs Rodrigues for organising the Early Years services.

**On Sunday, 17th December at 4pm in Church the parish will be holding their Advent Carol Service and we would like to invite you and your family to come along. The children who come along will be invited to be part of the programme on the day so it would be great to share their talents with the wider community.**

## EYFS Nativity

Our Reception and Nursery children put on a beautiful performance of 'Our very own Nativity' last week. Their confidence and delivery of lines was a joy to see and really helped to remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas. A big thank you to our Early Years team for all their hard work.

## Advent Reconciliation Service

On Thursday we had an Advent Reconciliation Service at Upper Site for Year 3 -6. Children who have made their First Communion and staff then had the opportunity to go to individual Confessions with Fr Michael.

## Whole School Assembly

Pupils from Reception to Year 6 came together in Church today for our end of year celebration.

PTA Outstanding Recognition Achievement Awards for Autumn Term were awarded to the following children:

**Curiosity:** Reyna  
**Compassion:** Laura  
**Gratitude:** Barok  
**Generosity:** David  
**Charity:** Emil  
**Faith:** Osinachi

**Honesty:** Ella  
**Hope:** Amy  
**Resilience:** Michael  
**Truth:** Amelia  
**Wisdom:** Nathaniel

Certificates were also presented to children who had 100% attendance with no late mark for the Autumn term.

Congratulations to all our pupils who received awards which were truly deserved and it was a pleasure to present them.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 7th December was Christmas jumper day and it was great to see all of our children and staff wearing their Christmas Jumpers. Seeing everyone in their colourful jumpers certainly puts a smile on people's faces. We will let you know how much was raised for Save the Children.



Today we had another Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for CAFOD for their work in the Middle East during this time of ongoing conflict.

## Christmas Lunch

Both sites enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner where staff sat with the children so everybody could savour the fantastic effort put in by our cooks. A big thank you to our cooks - Connie on Lower Site and Annabel on Upper Site who provide beautiful meals all year round. We would also like to say a big thank you to our Midday assistants who prepared the halls to make them look really special. The children really enjoyed the experience of pulling crackers, having Christmas music playing and being treated to lots of delicious food.

## Class parties

Next week on Tuesday afternoon we will be having our class parties. If you would like to donate some snacks for the party please let your child's teacher know. We might also have a special visitor at Lower Site.



## Clubs

All clubs are now finished for the term and will resume in the first week back after Christmas.

## PTFA

As we were unable to have our Christmas Fair as planned, the PTFA have organised a Merry Christmas Tea Party for **Monday 18th December at 3.30pm**. Please come along and support this event and buy some raffle tickets for our Christmas hampers which will take place on Tuesday. There are four lovely hampers to be won and if you would like to buy tickets before Monday, your child can buy them in class. The tickets are £1 per strip and if you send money in with your child we will send the tickets home.

## School Nurse Drop-in Sessions

The School Nurse drop in sessions will resume on the 2nd Thursday of every month starting on 11th January 2024 from 10am- 11am. Information on the services provided is detailed in the flyer at the end of the newsletter. If you would like to see the school nurse, parents must book an appointment in advance via the school office or contact the School Nurse Teams' Single Point of Access on: 0300 033 620 or email: [thgpcg.wf0-19spa1@nhs.net](mailto:thgpcg.wf0-19spa1@nhs.net).

## Staff News

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Kagoya, one of our Year 4 teachers who is leaving us at Christmas. Mrs Kagoya has been with us for over four years and has really enriched the provision at our school ranging from our Edible playground, her love for outdoor learning, Creator Space, chess, linking with other schools through the Faith and Belief forum and linking us with Farmer Mark as well as her work with the Eco Council. As much as we are sad to say goodbye, Mrs Kagoya is also very sad to be leaving us. Her trajectory in life has taken a new turn and she is going to care and support her mum in Scotland. We wish her every happiness and blessing as she begins this new calling in her life.

## Free School Meal Vouchers

Edenred vouchers will be issued to all families in receipt of benefit related free school meals, any child in nursery who is either in receipt of Free Early Education (FEEE) for 2 year-olds or any EYPP eligible 3 and 4 year-olds. A voucher of £30 per child for the duration of the Christmas holidays will be issued from Monday 18th December. Families will receive an email from Edenred and not the school.

## Food Bank

Our Lady & St George's Church will be hosting a pop up food bank on **Tuesday 19th December** from 1-3 pm in their meeting room. No registration is required, just turn up.

## Parent Governor Election

We are pleased to announce the results of the recent parent governor election. Congratulations to Almaz Stevens on being elected. Thank you to all who put their names forward.

## Applying for a Reception Place - September 2024

If your child is in Nursery and is born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, you need to apply for Reception for September 2024. If you have not already applied or submitted your application, you will need to do so before the deadline is **15th January 2024**. Please visit the Waltham Forest Admissions site for full details of how to apply. [Apply for a Primary School Place 2024](#).

### **Prayer for Week 3 of Advent - Gaudete Sunday**

Holy Father, Lord of all creation, you have power and might over heaven and earth.

You speak a word and mountains move. You whisper and the sea obeys. You turn darkness into light, and transform broken things into beauty. Lord, help me to see the wonder in your creation, to find the joy amidst the trials.

Help me to celebrate with joy and gladness this Christmas, for in you all things are made new. You are working to restore and remake all the broken pieces of my life and of this world. In you I will be glad and rejoice forever, delighting in you with joy. All this I pray through Jesus Christ, your only son, your greatest gift to this world.

**Amen.**



### **Prayer for Christmas**

**Jesus, the Light of the World,**

**As we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart.**

**May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023/2024

### Diary Dates

#### December 2023



Monday 18th December - 2.30pm Reception Carol Service - parents welcome  
3.30pm PTFA Christmas Tea Party in Lower Site Hall

Tuesday 19th December - Class parties pm

Wednesday 20th December - **Break up for Christmas** - 2.00pm Upper Site  
- 2.10pm Lower Site  
- 2.15pm Nursery  
- 5.00pm Childcare both sites

#### January 2024

Monday 8th January - School reopens - children return to school and Clubs resume  
Tuesday 9th January - 9:30-10:30am Open morning for prospective Reception Parents  
Thursday 11th January - School Nurse drop-in session 10am-11am  
Wednesday 17th January - Nursery Parent Consultation  
22nd - 26th January - Bikeability for year 5 & 6



## 0-19 Service

# Healthy Child Programme

We are your 0-19 Service, which delivers the Waltham Forest Healthy Child Programme. We provide public health interventions for children and families aged 0-19 years to enable them to reach their full potential.

### An allocated School nurse for every Primary school

Your school nurse can support with the following and much more...

- Long term health conditions e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and allergies
- Writing health care plans
- Disability and complex health needs
- Transition to secondary school and preparing for adulthood
- Promoting positive mental health, school attendance and attainment
- Referrals to and liaison with other services as required.

### Community Nursery offer monthly drop-in sessions in Primary schools

Your community nurse can support with the following and much more...

- Healthy eating
- Height and weight management
- Sleep routine
- Hygiene,
- Day or night-time wetting
- Hearing and vision
- Child development.

If you would like further support or to book an appointment, please inform reception staff or you can contact our Single Point of Access on: 0300 033 620 or email: [thgpcg.wf0-19spa1@nhs.net](mailto:thgpcg.wf0-19spa1@nhs.net)



[www.gpcaregroup.org](http://www.gpcaregroup.org)

Follow us:



@THGPCareGroup