



Friday 15th December - Newsletter 14 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

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Christmas Fair

We had our Christmas fair last week and what a great success it was! Thanks to all our lovely parents & carers for coming along and supporting us-we raised a fantastic **£2762.42**. Wow! We can't thank you all enough!

We would also like to say a special thank you to our wonderful team of FOSH volunteers! Your commitment and dedication to us does not go unnoticed and is hugely appreciated! Our children are very lucky to have you all!

FOSH would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our volunteers, parents/carers & children a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

We look forward to going into the new year with you all!

Best Wishes
Claire & Emmet
FOSH Chairs

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donators to our FOSH Christmas Fair 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER, MR. LANE

This Sunday is the third Sunday in Advent when we light another candle on the Advent wreath, the candle of joy. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy.



Our nativity plays and concerts started this week and it was lovely to be able to welcome parents/carers and family members into school. Our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performances were fantastic and we look forward to our Year 3-6 performances on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. We will be posting videos of all the concerts on the school website next week for you to enjoy, we will let you know in advance.

The children are getting really excited about 'Sacred Heart's Got Talent' and some of the performances so far have been great. We are getting closer to knowing the finalists ahead of the grand final which will take place on the last day of term, Thursday 21st December.

This week we found out that our school community's efforts raised an incredible £621.96 for the Poppy Appeal we had last month. This was the highest amount raised in all Islington schools. We are looking forward to pupil representatives of our school meeting the Mayor of Islington and David Dade in the new year to celebrate this incredible achievement. We really appreciate your support, especially as there have been a lot of other fundraising initiatives this term - THANK YOU.

Further on in the newsletter you can read a letter from Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London. In his letter, Mr Khan explains about the success of the Universal Free School Meals programme in London. We have also been informed by Islington Council that £30 worth of vouchers will be issued to all children entitled to free school meals. These will be distributed to you by email sometime before Christmas, so please look out for them.

Our school choir are singing at the 11:00 am Mass in our parish Church this Sunday 17th December. The children are looking forward to joining our parish community for this special occasion. Why not come along and join us?

Next Thursday 21st December at 10:00am we have our traditional carol concert in our Parish Church. All Year 3-6 classes will be in attendance where there will be singing and an opportunity for us to come together with parents/carers and parishioners to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Next week is the last week of term and the children finish on Thursday 21st December at 2:30 pm (Nursery finish at 3:25 pm on Wednesday 20th December).

Remember too that there is no After School Club (ASC) on Thursday next week meaning the last day for ASC is Wednesday 20th December.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr. Lane

Ready, Respectful, Safe Reward Trip

On Monday as a special reward, a selection of children from Years 3-6 who consistently embody our three school values Ready, Respectful and Safe went on a special ice skating trip to Somerset House. The children had lots of fun ice skating and enjoyed a hot chocolate afterwards. Well done for being Ready, Respectful and Safe role models!





Nursery Nativity Play

Our Nursery children performed their Christmas nativity play on Tuesday. They did a great job and the Nursery staff were really proud of them. They looked stunning in their costumes as kings, shepherds, stars and angels. They sang beautifully too. It was their first ever performance and we are really proud of each and every one of them.



RECEPTION NATIVITY PLAY

Our Reception children performed their Christmas nativity on Wednesday. They did a great job and the Reception Team were really proud of them. They looked stunning in their costumes as kings, shepherds, stars and angels. They sang beautifully too. We are really proud of each and every one of them.





One child per class is awarded a VIP certificate in Friday's celebration assemblies, led by Mrs McCormick. They also get lunch on a specially decorated table with table service!

Child's Name	Key	Reason
Birmadu St Francis	Community Unity	Our VIP this week is Birmadu for being kind and showing our new pupil around class.
Naomi St Brigid	Power of Me	VIP is awarded to Naomi for always being Ready, Respectful, and Safe in class.
Issac St Teresa	Power of Me	Our VIP is for Issac who has been working really hard to show Ready, Respectful, Safe this week. He always tries his best to be a kind friend and has done a super job of writing about the Polar Express!
Ella St John Paul	Hunger to Achieve	Ella consistently shows a 'Hunger to Achieve' and is a wonderful role model to her peers. She has been working super hard in our Maths and English lessons and has written a lovely narrative about the Polar Express. Keep up the fantastic work Ella!
Joshua St Bernadette	Community Unity	Joshua has shown he is a true friend. He is always ready to help others and will repeatedly make sure people around him feel happy. Thank you for being a true friend!
Joshua St Martin	Power of Me	Joshua has shown The Power of Me by trying his very best in class and in the nativity rehearsals. He also has been really good at explaining how he is feeling. Well done Joshua we are so proud of you!
Aaliyah St Catherine	Power of Me	Aaliyah has shown the 'Power of Me' all week and has had a fantastic attitude to learning. She has been a brilliant role model to the class. Well done Aaliyah, your hard work has paid off!
Michael St Elizabeth	Hunger to Achieve	Michael for his tireless hard work in the Nativity! Michael has a very important role to play and he does a fantastic job with his facial expressions, his singing and remembering when to say his lines. Thanks for all your hard work Michael!
Greta St Benedict	Curiosity and Wonder	Greta is always asking questions to gain a better understanding and improve her work. She puts 100% effort into all that she does! Well done, Greta. Keep on being amazing!
St Faustian	Power of Me	Maddie has demonstrated 'Power of Me' this week. Maddie has been focusing on her writing and wrote a fantastic setting description, she is able to bounce back and has been ready for learning! Keep up the amazing hard work Maddie!
Fergus St Maximillian	Power of Me	Fergus for Power of Me. Well done Gus for making an effort to learn your nativity lines and enthusiastically taking part in the singing and actions. Keep up the great showmanship!
Shiloh St Josephine	Hunger to Achieve	A big well done to Shiloh who has demonstrated 'A Hunger To Achieve' whilst practising for our UKS2 Nativity. Shiloh has learnt her lines and the lyrics for our performance very well- Shiloh makes a wonderful shepherd!

Choir Performance

On Friday 8th December 24 children from our school choir participated in the Singing for the Brain event held at Kensington Palace. They sang three songs including The Twelve Days of Christmas, Underneath the Tree and It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Their singing was beautiful and appreciated very enthusiastically by everyone in attendance. The children were excellent ambassadors for our school, not only showing impeccable manners but also compassion and energy while joining in and embracing the core purpose of the event. Our thanks to Anaiya's mum for coming with us and to Miss Palmer and Mrs Smith for leading such a great choir!



ADMISSION TO RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 they will be due to start in Reception in September 2024. You can now apply for places in our Reception class next year.

Admission into Reception is co-ordinated by the School Admissions Team at Islington Council and not here at the school. You must apply on-line at www.islington.gov.uk/admissions

If you live outside Islington you can still apply to Sacred Heart. The closing date is 15th January 2024 but Islington recommend that you complete your application before then and no later than 12th January 2024.

If parents and carers require any help, advice or assistance with the application process please contact our Senior Admissions Officer, Mrs Sharon Harney (Sharon), who will be able to help.

NATIVITY PLAYS AND CONCERTS

The dates for the remaining nativity plays and concerts are listed below.

Monday 18th December 10:00am

Year 3 Christmas performance for parents/carers

Monday 18th December 2:00pm

Year 4 Christmas performance for parents/carers

Tuesday 19th December 10:00am

Year 5 Christmas performance for parents/carers

Wednesday 20th December 10:00am

Year 6 Christmas performance for parents/carers

Because of data protection
parents/carers are not able to
film or record the nativity plays
this year.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to our school community's for all your effort with the Poppy Appeal, we raised the most out of all Islington schools with a grand total of £621.96. A special thank you to the Chaplaincy Team who help selling poppies before and after school.



Pantomime Trips

Our final pantomime trips took place this week and Reception, Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time. Thanks to all the parents/carers who have volunteered to support on the trips.



MEET THE STAFF AT SACRED HEART

What do you know about Mr Oliva?

Where were you born?

In London.

What is your favourite school memory?

I enjoyed playing football with my friends on the playground at school.

What is your job at Sacred Heart and what do you do?

I am a Learning Assistant in Year 2, supporting children in both classes.

What is your favourite thing about Sacred Heart School?

I love that everyone is so kind and welcoming and the staff go the extra mile for the children.



What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is spaghetti Bolognese. I have eaten it for my lunch every day for two years.

What/who is your favourite sports team and/or musician/band?

I support Leeds United Football Team. If I can I get the train to Leeds to watch them. I used to play the guitar and piano and I used to attend a music school. I like all music and have a very varied music taste.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

I play for a football team at the weekends and also I love to swim, cycle and run.

Tell us a joke or interesting fact.....

Malta is one of the only countries in the world that does not have a river. Can you find out what other countries do not have a river.



THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Parents/carers are emailed the Wednesday Word every week. Please take the time to read it with your child(ren). There are some lovely activities which you can do with your child(ren) and also link in with your child's Religious Education lessons in schools and with the liturgical year.

Wednesday
13th December



Good News
for Families

2 Wednesday's Word is **JOY**

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

A man came who was sent by God. His name was John, John the Baptist. He came as a witness – as a witness to Jesus Christ. Priests were sent from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" John replied, "I am not the Christ." "Are you the prophet Elijah then – or the Prophet?" they asked. He answered, "No." "So, who are you?" they asked. "What have you to say about yourself?" John replied, "I am the voice of the one who cries in the wilderness: 'Make the Lord's way straight.'" Finally they asked him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John said, "I baptise with water. But someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the River Jordan, where John was baptising.

From the Gospel of Sunday 17th December 2023 John 1:6-8, 19-28 (the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **JOY**.

Who did John the Baptist come to tell the people about? This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudete' in Latin means 'Rejoice!'. We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near – we rejoice that Christ is coming. Ask your child what the word 'joy' means to them. Each of you say who or what makes you feel joyful. When do you feel joyful? When was the last time you brought joy to others and what did you do? God wants us to be filled with joy – Jesus came to make our joy complete. Happiness comes and goes, but the joy that comes from close friendship with Jesus stays forever.

"Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

Joy is something we all desire. We don't have to search around for joy: it comes from within. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with joy! A joyful heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. What can you do to help bring joy to others in this coming week? Perhaps you can: give lots of smiles; give someone a gift; remind someone that they are loved by God; cheerfully do what our parents or teachers ask us to do. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share your joy with all those that we meet. Amen.

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

N	H	O	J	S	D	J	R	H	C	J
D	E	I	L	P	E	R	E	L	H	T
E	S	O	M	E	O	N	E	S	R	K
D	E	K	S	A	J	N	A	P	I	T
L	P	J	S	O	O	N	P	H	S	A
J	E	I	T	E	E	H	J	E	I	T
R	I	E	M	O	N	S	R	E	P	S
S	E	O	L	O	U	H	D	L	J	K
U	S	M	O	S	C	A	S	K	E	D
S	T	S	E	I	R	P	T	M	O	S
J	S	J	L	R	E	P	L	I	E	D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

PRIESTS ASKED
JOHN REPLIED
SOMEONE SOON
JESUS CHRIST

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

dasocon podwercfaul Jochand disca
 _____ the Baptist said, "Someone _____ coming
 who is more _____ than I am."

Cross out the letters c d a in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. John delivered the joyful news of God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus – he recognised Jesus as the Christ. We often don't recognise Jesus when he comes, when he is standing among us. But be assured: Jesus is always with us, waiting to fill us with joy.

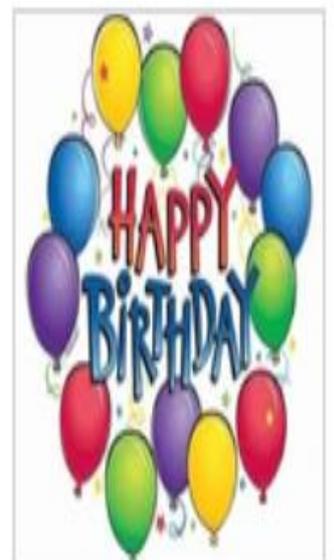


Illustration: © Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds. © Copyright 2023 The Wednesday Word

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We wish the following pupils a very happy birthday for next week:

Cameron (Y5), Yeab (Reception),
 Joel (Y4), Bemnet (Y2), Eliana (Y3),
 Victor (Y1), Sophia (Y6), Giovanni (Y1)
 and Jacob (Y4)



The Third Sunday of Advent



This coming Sunday, the third candle, known as the candle of joy, will be lit during mass.

Instead of the previous two weeks of purple or violet candles, this week the colour of the candle will be different: it's pink. As a reminder, three candles are purple, one is pink, and the one in the centre is white.

Churches will light one candle a week, starting the first week of December, and will light the white candle in the centre on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

What Is the Candle of Joy for The Third Week of Advent?

Otherwise known as the **Shepherd Candle**, this candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us.

JOY
\\joi \\ noun

1. darkness dispelled.
2. the light of everlasting life lit up in the soul.

Christians may wonder why the church decided to make this particular candle a different colour than the others.

Although Christians have presented several reasons for the pinkish nature of the candle, from a tradition where priests would wear pink vestments to parents eagerly awaiting the joy of a child's arrival by painting the room pink, the rosy candle has its roots in something

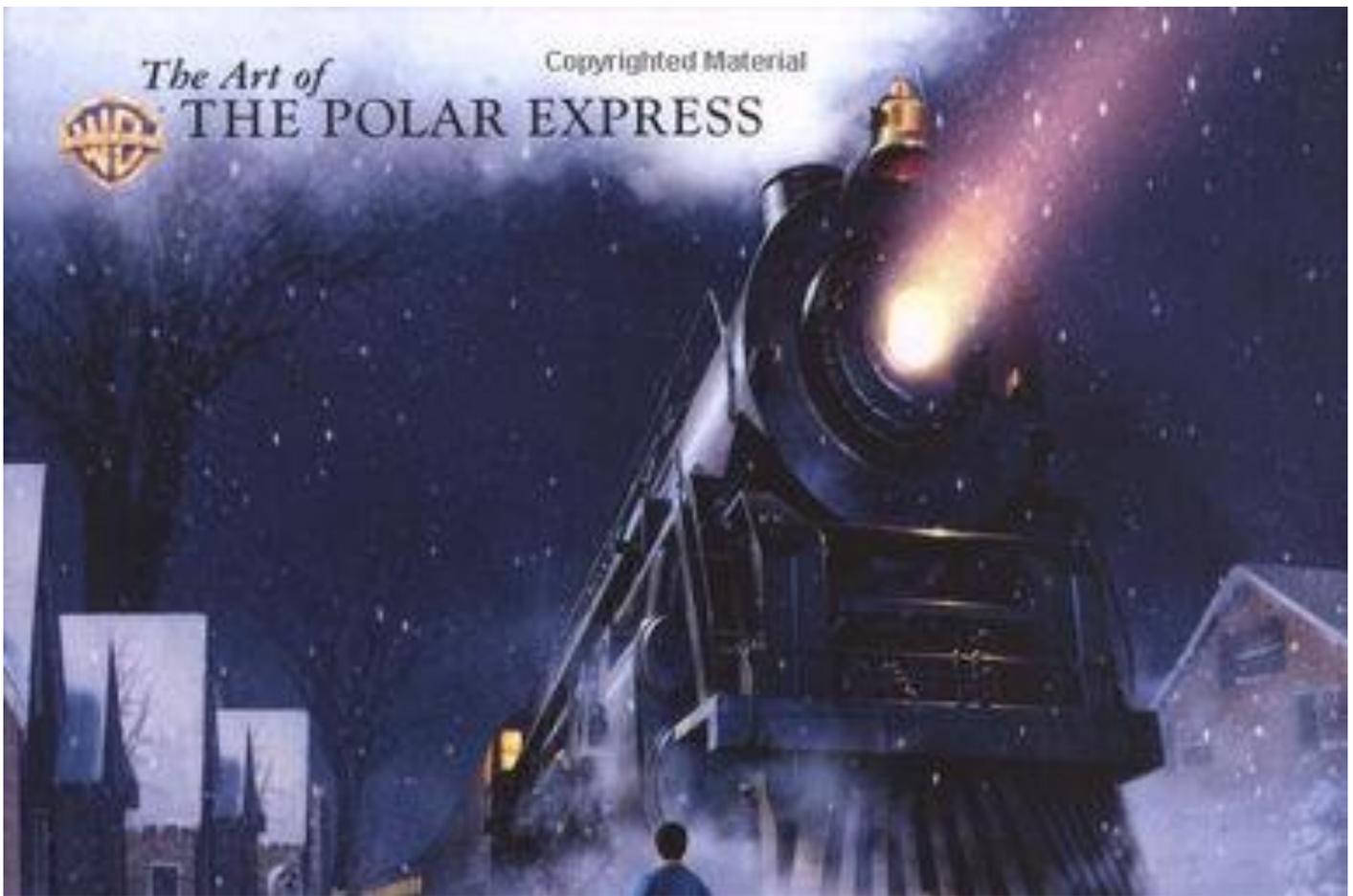
Chaplaincy Team makes a real impact!

So far this year, our Chaplaincy Team have supported many aspects of the Catholic Life here at Sacred Heart. The team of 15 children have met every Thursday after school to share ideas and to plan our next initiatives.

This term, we have supported our Harvest Collection, raising money for The Passage and in the month of November, members of our team offered their services in support of another very successful Poppy Appeal. The team designed posters to promote the Diocesan Christmas card design competition. More recently, they have supported our preparations for Christmas (wreaths), participated in masses and assemblies and volunteered to supported the FOSH Christmas Fair.

We sincerely thank you for your service and congratulate you on a job well done!





Join us for Pyjama Day Wednesday 20th December

To celebrate our whole school topic of Polar Express we invite you to wear pyjamas for the day!



No £1 contribution needed.



*Auditions open for
Reception to
Year 6 children*

@ CHRISTMAS

FIRST ROUND Week beginning 4th December

Auditions held in class, 2 successful acts from each class will reach the next round!

SECOND ROUND Week beginning 11th December

Perform with the other successful acts from your year group, the winner goes through to the final!

FINAL 21st December

One finalist from each year group performs in front of the school!

Sign up in class to register your interest.

Get practising! GOOD LUCK!

We have been asked to share the following letter with parents/guardians prior to the Christmas break by Christopher Greenwood, Islington Safer Schools Sergeant.



Islington Schools

Islington Police Station
Tolpuddle Street
N1 0YY

www.met.police.uk

05/12/2023

Return from Christmas break

Islington schools are due to come back from 8th January 2024 following a two week break. It is imperative that we plan for issues that are likely to arise following the Christmas break. Some children will receive some high value gifts for Christmas presents and it is only natural for them to want to show these off to friends and despite local school rules I am sure a number of these items will be taken into school. A school child is a very attractive target for criminals, this could be from peers or from others knowing the child will be carrying high value goods with them. As the cost of living crisis is ongoing many people that would not usually turn to criminality will turn to it purely to maintain their basic survival needs; this will be exacerbated during the winter months with those not being able to heat homes or feed themselves. Even close friends may resort to theft if their guardians are struggling. It is really easy to imagine a thief or a robber hiding in a dark corner with a mask on ready to pounce on an unsuspecting victim; and of course this threat does exist, however anybody is capable of extreme acts if the opportunity and circumstances dictate.

Outside of this we have our business as usual issue that the greater hours of darkness can further amplify – anti-social behaviour to name the most relevant one.

Your safer schools policing team will be working both before and after the school holidays to ensure a safe return in the new year. Some planned activities will be:

-Input around stay safe and robbery to be promoted within schools prior to the winter break and in the new year

-An increased visible presence around the school during the working day. This will include the distribution of leaflets around robbery

-An increased visible presence outside of the school before and after the working day. This will include anti-social behaviour hotspots.

-An increase of partnership working with safer neighbourhood teams to enable weapon sweeps to be completed in parks and open spaces, especially those identified as main access and egress routes

-Working in partnership with our safer transport teams to enable greater visibility on public transport networks with school's officers to walk popular routes into schools

These are activities that schools' officers complete most days however there will be a greater drive around the above points over the next two months to ensure the safest return to school possible.

As guardians I would ask you reinforce the messages that your school's officers are delivering over the winter break into the new year:

-If you don't need it with you leave it at home. Carrying large amounts of cash, an expensive phone, watch or any other tech just to show your friends puts you at risk of losing it. If you don't need to take it, leave it

-If you have got a new phone over Christmas, carry your old one with you also. If you are threatened give over the old one

-If somebody does threaten violence or intimate they have a weapon never call their bluff or try and fight back. Phones are replaceable – lives are not

-Don't walk around with your phone out or looking at your phone. It can be snatched in seconds or noticed by somebody that wants to take it by force

-If using earbuds only put one in. Know your surrounding and don't block off all senses

-Walk in groups if possible - walk home with friends or family

-Avoid dark secluded spaces. Look for lots of people and light. The dark secluded corner of a park is an attractive hiding spot for criminality. It may save two minutes to walk through instead of around – think what it may cost...

-Don't follow strangers or engage with anybody you don't know.

-Report anything, no matter how small you may feel it is. If something doesn't seem right, then it probably isn't. Your information could be a small piece of a bigger puzzle.

-Stay safe online, don't speak to people you don't know or give any information over you wouldn't want to world to know. This includes sending any images.

I hope you all have a lovely break and my team look forward to seeing you in the new year. If you would like to reach out to your safer school's officers, please contact your school who can put you in contact with them directly.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Greenwood
Islington Safer Schools Sergeant

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the end of term approaches, I wanted to write to you to let you know how successful our Universal Free School Meals programme has been. I'm pleased to say I've now provided more than 10 million free lunches to primary school pupils in state-funded schools across our city since September. As part of our emergency intervention to help with the cost of living crisis, I'll continue to fund millions more free school meals until at least the end of this academic year, ensuring children don't go hungry and saving families hundreds of pounds.

I'm doing this because I know many parents and carers are desperately struggling with the cost of living right now. As someone who received free school meals myself growing up, I know they can be a lifeline to people who are finding it hard to make ends meet and that they can also help children concentrate in the classroom and reach their full potential.

As Mayor of London, I also fundamentally believe that feeding our children shouldn't be an optional luxury but should rank as one of our society's top priorities. Making sure our children are properly fed and healthy is vital to building a better London for everyone – a city that is fairer, safer, more inclusive and more prosperous for all.

I've been deeply touched by the heartfelt messages I've received from both parents and pupils, who've told me what these free school meals mean to them. I know times are still tough for many families across London, so I sincerely hope this programme will continue to make a meaningful difference to you and your children, particularly as the days get colder and energy bills remain high.

Even though your child is receiving their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important – if you have not already done so – to complete your school or borough's registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school, worth over £1,300 per year, plus any wider benefits for your family. For more information about this and anything else about the scheme, please visit our online hub: <https://www.london.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

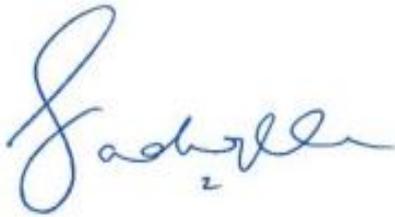


MAYOR OF LONDON

Families having difficulties with their financial situation can also access advice and support by visiting my cost of living hub here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>.

I wish your family a happy and healthy winter break, and I hope your children are looking forward to their school meals when they return in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Thank you to the following companies for supporting FOSH.



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Santa Clause is comin' to town!



Bring the magic of Christmas to you this year with your very own visit from our **award-winning** Father Christmas.

Be it an **intimate home visit**, **magical school fair**, **corporate event** or **festive Christmas party**, he'll always bring the cheer. He is a regular at **Soho Farmhouse**, **Miss Daisy's Nursery** and **Willows Farm Grotto** as well as firm favourite of **Claire Sweeney!**

'Hands down best Santa my kids have ever seen!'

Home visits start from £80 and include a sweet treat!

For all the details and to book please visit www.pippaspoppets.co.uk/fatherchristmas or call **07708 233614**.



EYFS Phase News

Nursery: St Anthony & St Nicholas:

We have elves staying with us until the Christmas holidays and overnight they enjoy using the Nursery resources. The next day the children are excited to see what the elves have been up to and are keen to try the activity for themselves. On Wednesday the children were trying to make a clay mountain as big as the one left by the elves. In RE lots of the children have made Advent promises about sharing and we have seen this in action when they have been playing turn-taking games. They have also been re-enacting wrapping dolls in strips of white cloth after hearing this described in Luke's version of the Birth of Jesus.



Reception: St Jude & St Peter:

We loved our families coming to see us this week for our Nativity play! We are so proud of ourselves and had a fantastic time singing to you all! We used our microphones like experts and did every single action in time to the music! Keep an eye out for the video link which will be sent next week!



KS1 Phase News

Year 1-St Brigid

In Maths this week, we have been learning about multiplication. We used a variety of manipulatives to show our understanding of doubling numbers and then we recorded our results in our books

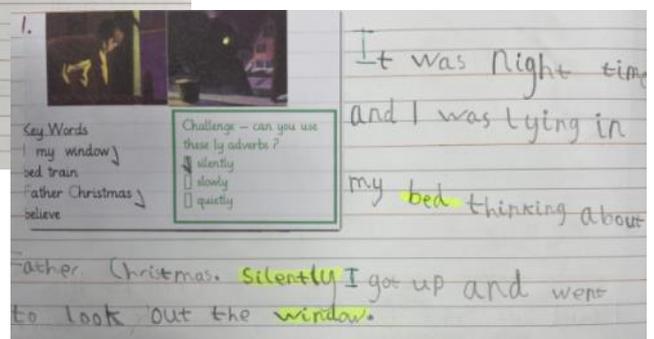
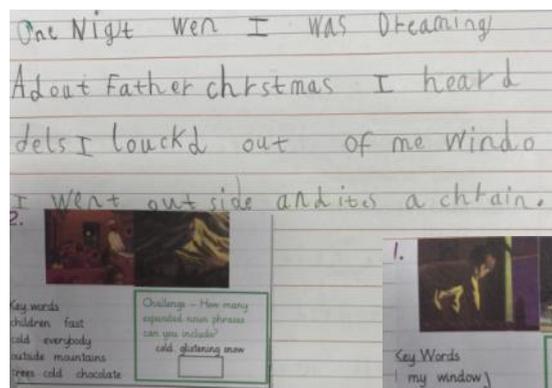


Year 1-St Francis

This week St Francis class have been retelling Matthew's Nativity Gospel. We painted our own peg dolls and used these to act out the key events in scripture.

Year 2-St John Paul and St Teresa

Last week we took a ride on the Polar Express! We were each given tickets, sat in our carriages, and drank hot chocolate with marshmallows! We thought about all of our senses (what we could see, hear, smell, taste and touch). We are using this experience to write our very own narratives in our English lessons this week. Here are some examples of our lovely writing.



LKS2 Phase News

In St Martin de Porres, we have been looking at the functional and aesthetic properties of musical instruments in our DT lessons. We then spent a few weeks designing our own monkey drums for the target audience; Arsenal football fans. Here are some of our finished results.



Throughout this half term, several children in St Bernadette, have had the opportunity to lead Class Worship. They were very respectful and took time to plan and resource their sessions. We can't wait to join more worship sessions with different children leading.

The reviews are in! Y4 St Elizabeth and Y4 St Catherine visited the Hackney Empire to see Aladdin, a fantastic story about a boy who saves the world from an evil villain!

"It was very funny, and there was lots of people from the audience who got involved. We even got a little bit wet!" Annaliese, Y4

"Some of the people were doing multiple jobs; they must have been exhausted!" Jack, Y4

"It was really fun, especially when they started throwing sweets and using the water guns." Edith, Y4

"It was really interesting because we saw a show that we'd never experienced before. Can't wait to go back next year!" Amoria, Y4

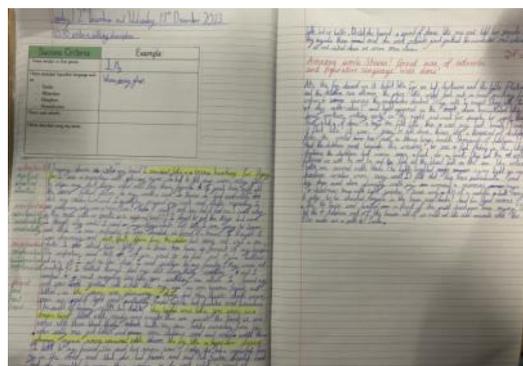
"It was really cool when they were rhyming and I liked it when they put the baddie in the washing machine." Alex, Y4

"Their dancing was fantastic!" James, Y4



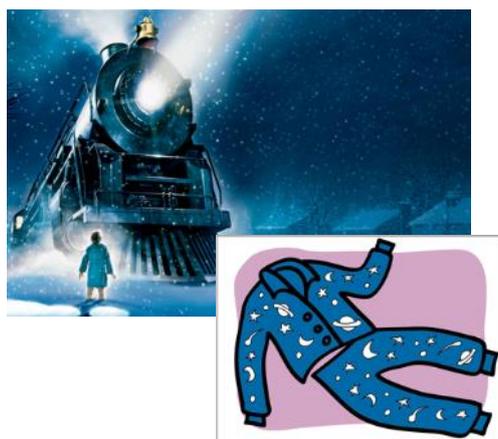
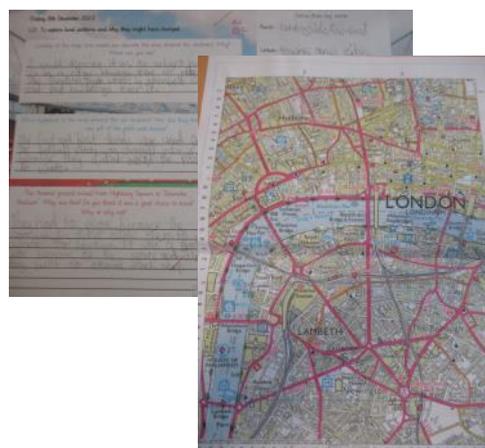
UKS2 Phase News

This week, in Writing, Year 5 Saint Faustina have been planning and writing a setting description about the train journey from 'The Polar Express'. We focused on our use of adverbs, figurative language, first person and the five senses to write a detailed and descriptive piece. Some pupils wrote over two pages! Well done to all of Saint Faustina on your creativity!



Year 5 Saint Benedict have been busy making instruments in DT. We have made ukeleles, drums and maracas! We spent time planning and designing our instrument before carefully constructing them using different materials found around our homes. Well done Year 5!

In Geography, Year 6 Saint Maximillian have been exploring six figure grid references, compass directions and a variety of map work. We have also delved deeper into our local environment, looking at land use and how areas have changed over time.



Year 6 Saint Josephine have been working hard in English. We have been retelling the story of 'The Polar Express' and have been changing elements to make the story our own. We have included a range of punctuation and descriptive techniques to engage the reader. We are very excited for next Wednesday's PJ Day to end our school topic!

Jigsaw-GC's From me to you Parents programme
presents



FATHERS WITH FOCUS



FREE
Event

Family wellbeing event

17TH DECEMBER 2023

**@THE LIFT, 45 WHITE LION STREET
LONDON, N1 9PW 11.30 - 16.00**

This Event is for dads
and their children

An inclusive space for men and their children, particularly Dad's, to come together and engage in fun and wellbeing activities, to share, reflect, encourage and empower one another. Our primary objective is to uplift fathers whilst providing them with the opportunity to engage in open discussions about parenthood and tackle important topics about our own expectations as men.

event activities

Holistic Support for Fathers
Family Games and Activities
Podcasts

Financial/Relationship Advice
Access to Mentors, Coaches, and Therapists
Wellbeing Tasters
Marketplace with a Focus on Men
Spoken Word Performances

And So Much More!

Food and refreshments will be provided

**Limited spaces!! to register for a FREE!! place please email us
@info@jigsaw-gc.com or scan the QR code.**





Free early learning and childcare is increasing

Free early learning with a nursery or childminder supports your child's development.

Social skills: spending quality time with other children and adults

Learning: young children learn while they play and explore

Routines: children gain confidence, independence, and a sense of security

Free hours are available for 38 weeks a year, or some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over more weeks, using fewer hours each week.

How many hours of childcare can you get a week?

Age 3-4 years

All parents

15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Age 2 years

Families receiving some additional forms of government support

15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Age 9-23 months

Working families

15 hours	30 hours
Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working families

30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
Now	Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Working families

15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
Apr 2024	Sept 2024	Sept 2025

Free hours are available from the start of the term after your child turns the relevant age by 31 March, 31 August, or 31 December.



Sign up for updates at
childcarechoices.gov.uk

Current offers

Age 3-4

15 hours a week - for everyone; no need to apply.

Contact early years providers to ask about a place.

30 hours a week - for eligible working parents*.

Apply at Childcare Choices - childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 2

15 hours a week - for families receiving benefits or on a low wage.

Also, for children looked after, families with no recourse to public funds, children receiving DLA or with an EHCP.

Apply at islington.gov.uk/free2

New expanded childcare offers

Age 2

15 hours a week - for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from April 2024.

You can apply from January 2024 to take up a place from April 2024.

You must apply by 31 March 2024.

Go to childcarechoices.gov.uk

Age 9-23 months

15 hours a week - for eligible working parents*; both parents need to be working. Available from September 2024.

You can apply from April 2024 to take up a place from September 2024.

You must apply by 31 August 2024.

Speak to your local childcare providers to find out what they are offering.

30 hours free childcare

From September 2025 eligible working parents* of children from the age of 9 months until they start school, will be able to get 30 hours free. Eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds can already receive this.

*Eligible working parents - this means that each parent is working and earning under £100k per year and at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at National minimum or Living Wage)

For more
information contact
Islington Family
Information Service (FIS)
020 7527 5959
fis@islington.gov.uk
Follow us on Facebook
[@IslingtonFIS](https://www.facebook.com/IslingtonFIS)

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL 2023–2024 DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2023		TOTAL DAYS
<i>Monday 4th September 2023 – Friday 22nd December 2023</i>		75
Start Date	Monday 4 th September 2023	
Finish Date	Friday 22 nd December 2023	
INSET DAY(S)	Monday 4 th September 2023	
	Friday 22 nd December 2023	
Children return to school	Tuesday 5 th September 2023	
HALF TERM (Mon – Fri)	23 rd - 27 th October 2023	
Last day of term for children	Thursday 21 st December 2023	
Last day of term	Friday 22 nd December 2023	

SPRING TERM 2024		TOTAL DAYS
<i>Monday 8th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024</i>		54
Start Date	Monday 8 th January 2024	
Finish Date	Thursday 28 th March 2024	
INSET DAY	Monday 19 th February 2024	
Children return to school	Monday 8 th January 2024	
HALF TERM (Mon – Fri)	12 th – 16 th February 2024	
Last day of term for children	Thursday 28 th March 2024	
Last day of term	Thursday 28 th March 2024	

<i>Good Friday (Bank Holiday)</i>	<i>Friday 29th March 2024</i>
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Sunday 31st March 2024</i>
<i>Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)</i>	<i>Monday 1st April 2024</i>

SUMMER TERM 2024		TOTAL DAYS
<i>Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024</i>		66
Start Date	Monday 15 th April 2024	
Finish Date	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	
INSET DAY(S)	Monday 22 nd July 2024	
	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	
Children return to school	Monday 15 th April 2024	
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024	
HALF TERM (Mon – Fri)	27 th – 31 st May 2024	
Last day of term for children	Friday 19 th July 2024	
Last day of term	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	

TOTAL DAYS	75 + 54 + 66	195
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INSET DAYS (5)	
1	Monday 4 th September 2023
2	Friday 22 nd December 2023
3	Monday 19 th February 2024
4	Monday 22 nd July 2024
5	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024