



# St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy

## December - Newsletter

Email: [office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk](mailto:office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk) and Telephone: 01472 357982  
School Website: <https://www.saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk/>

### DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

As we begin the church new year and prepare ourselves through the time of Advent, we also celebrated the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This busy time in the run up to Christmas as Pope Leo reminds us is a favourable time to pray to the spiritual life and to act on our charity towards people most in need as we are called to be more attentive, closer to the needs of others.

Both dedications remind us of the heart of the Catholic Faith; that we remain always in the love and care of the heart of the father and of Mary, the Mother of Our Blessed Lord. Perhaps at this time, we should try and spend a few minutes each day in prayer, for our families and those whom we love.

I hope you take time to read the newsletter and please remember should you require any additional information, always feel free to ask the office.

We wish everyone in our families and communities during this time a safe and wonderful time in the run up to Christmas and during the holiday break.

Kind regards

Mr J. O'Connor and Mrs S Barnsley





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### DATES FOR THE DIARY

(More important dates/times to be added please keep checking Class Dojo)

#### **Thursday 11th December**

Christmas Jumper Day

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Year 4 Swimming

#### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Christingle Mass at 11am @ St Marys

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

EYFS Nativity to parents and carers @ 9.30am

- Christmas Lunch

#### **Wednesday 17th December**

Year 1 Nativity to all parents and carers @ 9.30am

Years 2 and Year 3 Nativity for parents and carers @ 2pm

#### **Thursday 18th December**

Carol Concert to Parents and Carers @ 9.30am

- Christmas Party Day for all school

#### **Friday 19th December**

End of year assembly for parents

Prayers and carols around the crib in school for children only

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Back to school





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### INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### BREAKFAST CLUB

Please book breakfast club via Arbor App. This runs from 7.45am and children have breakfast and join in on some fun activities with their friends.

#### PERMISSIONS TO TAKE HOME AND MEDICAL FORMS

Please can all information be kept updated. It is parents/carer responsibility to keep all information updated for your child/children, especially any new medical information. This can be seen on the Arbor App and you can request changes and updates on there.

#### UNIFORM

If you require any uniform, please contact Uniform Direct on 01472 347800. Address is 54 Victoria Street, Grimsby DN31 1BL.

#### LUNCHES

Please order lunches via Arbor.

#### FORMS

Please can parents/carers fill and update the Pupil Consent Form. If you haven't received a copy, please ask the office.

#### SCHOOL WEBSITE

<https://www.saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk/> please visit the school website for all updated information on the school.



#### St Mary's Primary Academy - Safeguarding Team



Mr J O'Connor,  
Safeguarding Lead  
(DSL)



Ms C Queen, Safeguarding  
Officer/(DDSL)



Mrs S Barnsley, Deputy  
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



Mrs L Ballard, Deputy  
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



Mrs D Williamson, Deputy  
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)



Mrs R Walton, Level 3  
Safeguarding Trained



Miss J Briscoe, Level 3  
Safeguarding Trained



Miss R Cullum, Level 3  
Safeguarding Trained



Mrs K Tuff, Well-being, Personal  
Development and RE Lead

### Attendance

Thank you for your continued support with keeping our attendance above the national average. The past few weeks we have had a lot of children absent so the compulsory school attendance has dropped to 95.49% hopefully the figure will rise again soon.

We still have a few children arriving late persistently, this is something that we would like to work with you to improve. If you are having problems getting your child to school on time and we can help in anyway then please contact the school office.

We work with our EWO (Education Welfare Officer) to overcome problems children have with attending school or not being on time. Our EWO will make visits, write letters and arrange meetings on behalf of the school if your child has low attendance or is late on many occasions. If you would like help at any time from our EWO then please let the office know and we will ask her to contact you.



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### THANK YOU, WE DID IT!

We are so pleased to announce that we reached our goal of £400 sales at the book fair! Our grand total is.... £403.98! This means we will receive £160 back in rewards to keep our classroom and school libraries updated! Thank you so much to everyone who came and bought something, we are so grateful!



### GREAT ATHLETES

We are pleased to share with you all the amazing results from our Great Athletes event last term. You raised a fantastic total of £1,837.75. Taking part in this inspirational event, we agreed to share the total with Great Athletes for them to deliver such a fun filled afternoon for the children and to meet such an inspiring Olympic champion. This means we have **£904.14** to spend on new school sports equipment. We would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents and carers for helping your child/children to raise this impressive amount of money and to all the children for doing so well in the circuit with Sean Gaffney. It was a great afternoon and just proved how fantastic our children are at raising money for the school and organisations like Great Athletes.

### STAFF CAR PARK

This is a reminder that the staff car park is for staff and deliveries only. Please do not park or walk through the car park at any time.

This is for health and safety reasons for you and your children. Thank you







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### CATHOLIC LIFE AT ST MARYS

This month has been quite busy! Our Mini-Vinnies and school council have been selected along with our new head boy and girl and their deputies. The four of them have taken on a very responsible role in the development of school life. They are currently writing a short piece to introduce themselves which you will be able to read in the new year.



At the end of November, several families gathered in the hall to create some wonderful advent wreaths for each class and other areas in the school. This was a lovely festive afternoon, and the wreaths have now been blessed and are being used in each classroom as we journey through Advent. We thank you for your participation in such a lovely activity.





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**RECEPTION** - Class enjoyed exploring the snow and ice. Children loved getting wrapped up and catching the snowflakes and making footprints in the snow. It was great to hear the children chatting about the snow using vocabulary like cold, freezing, ice, white, chilly, fluffy and smooth.



**Year 1** - have had a busy Advent term 2! In maths we have been working on part, part whole models to help us then move on to adding to digits to find the total. We use lots of practical resources to help our learning. In RE we began our topic Prophecy & Promise. We have been learning about the meanings of the words in the Hail Mary and how these link to the words that the Angel Gabriel spoke when he appeared to Mary. We have retold the Gospel story of the nativity from the Annunciation to the birth of Jesus, and the visit from the shepherds, taken from Luke's Gospel. We used art to show different interpretations of the nativity. We have also been busy learning our songs and words for our Christmas nativity and working hard during enterprise week, making items to sell. We made shortbread Christmas biscuits, wrapping paper, gift bags and tree ornaments.







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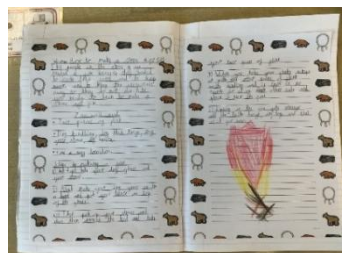
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**Year 2** - In Science we kicked off the new term with creating a wormery

after learning how they make compost from eating soil, leaves and vegetable peelings. Children searched our playground for worms and carefully put them into our wormery. In RE we began our second branch, Prophecy and Promise. Children have learnt what a prophet is and the messages they had. They created pieces of artwork based on what the Prophet Isaiah had to say. We have also explored the Magnificat, Mary's Song, where she praises God for all the good things he does for us. Children have also retold the stories of the Annunciation of John the Baptist and Jesus. In history we are learning about the famous explorer Christopher Columbus. Children sequenced his well-known expedition to the Americas before writing a fact file about him.



This term, **Year 3** has been diving into two exciting areas of learning: English writing skills and a fascinating History topic. In English, the children have been developing their non-fiction writing through fact files and instruction texts. They have worked hard to identify key features such as headings, subheadings, bullet points, labelled diagrams, and clear, step-by-step instructions. After exploring examples, the class planned and created their own fact files on topics they know well, focusing on using precise language and organising information so it is easy for readers to understand. When writing instructions, the children practised using imperative (bossy) verbs, time connectives, and clear sequencing. Their finished pieces show great progress in structure, detail, and presentation. In History, Year 3 has been travelling far back in time to learn all about the Stone Age. The children have been fascinated by how people lived thousands of years ago, comparing Stone Age life to life today. They explored how early humans hunted, gathered food, created tools, and built shelters. Their curiosity and thoughtful questions have made this unit especially engaging. Year 3 has shown fantastic enthusiasm across both subjects, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and growing confidence as young historians and writers.





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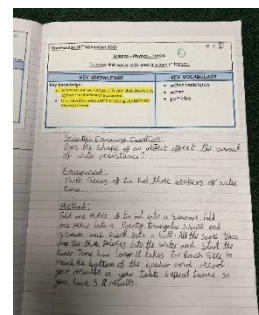
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**Year 4** - In Science we have been learning all about states of matter, solids, liquids and gasses. We have conducted various experiments to see if we can change the states of matter of items such as water, cheese, chocolate and plastic cubes. We also enquired as to whether any changes were reversible or permanent. We have even used thermometers, many of us for the first time, to see if the temperature of water is impacted over time. Maths we have now completed our 'area' unit and have progressed onto our time-tables unit, which focuses on each table. We are learning any tips and tricks to help us remember, including completing the BBC Super Movers dances which help us in a fun and energetic way. This is a great unit to help us prepare for our times tables check later in the school year. History we are learning about the Vikings and how they came to settle in England. We are looking at why they settled here and the legacy they left. Our next lesson focuses on Viking town names and the kingdoms of the heptarchy. Enterprise week the children did so well making their stockings, We learnt to sew and created some beautiful pictures on the front of them. Thank you for your support!



In **Year 5** this month, we have been working hard! We are finishing our non-chronological report about How to Survive in the Australian Outback and learning all about finding equivalent fractions using multiples that we know. In RE, we have been discussing how we prepare for Advent as Christians and been practicing non-stop for our Christmas Carol Concert. In History, we have been fascinated by the Ancient Maya Civilisation and how they lived and have loved learning about this! In Science, we have been doing lots of investigating to see how weight impacts gravity on an object, how friction is impacted by the shape of an object and how objects can become more streamlined to move through air and water more quickly.





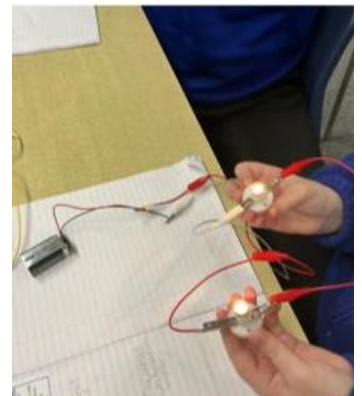


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**Year 6** visited the Internet Safety Roadshow, to hear about all the ways that we can keep each other safe while using smart phones and gaming online. We had to design a poster to try and win the prize, but it was quite challenging with another 6 schools there. We learned about the extra steps we can take to make sure others do not access our personal information and what to do if this happens. In science, we have been investigating our series circuits and finding ways to make our bulb brighter and our buzzer louder. We have concluded that if we increase the voltage, then we can make this happen. We have worked hard at completing our Enterprise items to sell at the Christmas Enterprise Day. We found the tombola stall was the highlight of our activities!



Last week, 3 of our children were invited to take part in our maths challenge. The children had to compete against 10 other schools in completing as many maths problems as possible. The adults were moved away from the children quite swiftly as it was very challenging for us not to help them! Well done to the 3 children that attended. You did St Mary's proud.

