



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ

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Headteacher – Miss B Nugent

Mission Statement “We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.”

12th December 2022

Dear Parents,

On behalf of all staff I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas with your families and friends. Our Advent journey is almost at an end and we look forward to welcoming Christ into our lives again on Christmas Day. For health and safety reasons the Carol Service will be held in the school hall tomorrow at 2:15pm. I apologise for the earlier time but hope you will still be able to attend.

Thank you for your attendance at our Christmas services which your children presented so well, I hope you enjoyed their performance as much as we did. Mrs Simon was very proud of their beautiful singing.

In preparation for Christmas Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils attended Mass in English Martyrs Church and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Key Stage 2 classes have been praying ‘The Angelus’ each day at 12 noon, this special prayer celebrates Mary saying yes to God calling her to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus. This was led by our ‘Faith Friends’, a group of Year 5 pupils who meet Fr Ray each week to plan prayer and other activities for our Catholic life and mission. Thank you for the donations of food and toiletries for the food banks, refugee centre and homeless shelter to support of our charitable act of giving to others during Advent. There is still time for you to contribute.

Safeguarding – If your children receive new technology devices for Christmas, be aware of the following guidance on keeping children safe online. Please set up new devices with Parental controls that allows you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper - Pupils will be served the traditional Christmas lunch on Thursday. This is a ‘dress warm day’ - jeans and Christmas jumper. Don’t worry if you haven’t got a Christmas jumper, you can decorate your own at home or bring one along tomorrow for the School Council’s ‘decorate your jumper’ workshop.

Financial Resilience and Cost of Living – Below are links to resources to support those struggling with the increased cost of living.

- **Cost of Living Hub** (Mayor of London): <https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living-hub>
- **Energy debts:** <https://fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>
- **National Energy Action:** Warm and Safe Homes helpline 0800 304 7159
- **Green Doctors London:** Energy advice <https://london.greendoctors.org.uk>

School kitchen changes - We are sorry to have to say goodbye to our cook Elizabeth who is being moved to another school in January. Due to budget measures Tower Hamlets Catering Service will now prepare our main meals at the Central Production Unit and deliver them to our kitchen. The remaining kitchen staff will prepare salads, fruit platters and steamed and roasted vegetables and serve pupils’ meals from our kitchen.

We are a pilot school for their Food Improvement Service and they are willing to provide tasting sessions for parents and children to encourage children to try a wider range of foods. I will keep you informed of their plans in the Spring term.

Mrs Donn – Please pray for Mrs Donn who had her surgery last week, thankfully it went well and she is now at home recuperating.

School closes on Friday 16th December at 2:00 pm. We look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Wednesday 4th January 2023, have a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent

