



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."

21st November 2022

Dear Parents,

Further to the Ofsted Inspection in February and the Diocesan RE inspection in May staff have been working towards addressing the recommended actions. We aim to further develop the Catholic life of the school by harnessing the support of the pupil chaplaincy team. The team consists of six pupils from Year 5 known as 'Faith Friends' who meet weekly with Mrs Briggs the RE coordinator and Fr Ray to plan prayer and worship activities to share with pupils in class and at assembly. Last week their mission at assembly for all was to 'share God's love with others'. I hope you will take an interest in what the Faith Friends encourage your children to do at assembly each week so that you can make it part of the Catholic life of your family. Mrs Briggs and I will keep you up to date with events and new initiatives planned for Religious Education, Catholic Life and Mission and Prayer and Liturgy - three key components of RE.

The Feast of Christ The King celebrated at Mass this weekend marked the end of the Church Year and next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent the beginning of the new Church year. The Season of Advent is four special weeks during which we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives again when He is born on Christmas Day. All parents are welcome to join us as we prepare for Christmas at the following events. During Advent we will teach pupils how to pray 'The Angelus' and our Faith Friends will lead us in saying this special prayer each day at 12 noon.

EYFS pupils are preparing an Advent assembly which they will present for parents on Friday 25th November 9.30 am in school hall.

Years 1, 2 and 3 will present their Nativity Play on Tuesday 6th December at 2.00 pm.

The Year 4, 5 and 6 Carol Service will be held at school on Tuesday 13th December at 4.30 pm.

The Carol Service at English Martyrs Church will be held on Saturday 10th December at 6pm and the choir from Year 5 and 6 have been invited to perform. You are all invited to attend this event in English Martyrs Church. Details of this fundraising event to support our Parish Church will be provided.

Christmas Charity - Catholic Social teaching is part of our RE curriculum and during Advent we will support local charities by donating food to local food banks and clothing and toiletries to homeless and refugee centres.

- EYFS / KS 1 will be invited to collect for the food banks
- Years 3 and 4 will be invited to bring in clothing / hygiene products for Providence Row Homeless Centre
- Years 5 and 6 will be invited to bring in food / hygiene products / baby items for Hurtado Refugee Centre

Please wait for the complete list of specific items required before sending in any donations.

Christmas Lunch - Elizabeth our cook will serve the Christmas Lunch on Thursday 15th December, pupils may wear a festive Christmas jumper that day.

Advent homework - A task will be provided each week for pupils in Y1 - 6 which I hope you will encourage your children to complete.

Anti Bullying - Last week we had Anti-Bullying week and pupils have been identifying who they could 'reach out' to if they feel unsafe. I would encourage you to watch the assembly with your child and always make sure that school is informed of any worry your child shares with you so that we can be alert to any sign of bullying. Link is provided below <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/anti-bullying-week-2022-live-lesson/zpw6nk7>.

Road Safety - Today pupils in Years 3-6 had Road Safety assembly and were encouraged to 'Be Bright Be Seen'. Our Junior Travel Ambassadors will be selling reflectors for coats and bags after school this Wednesday in KS 1 playground.

Fire Safety - Y2 and 5 have had the Fire Service teaching them carbon monoxide and fire safety precautions which I hope they were able to share with you.

Other events -

- Mass for Feast of All Saints
- 6 Year 5 pupils participated in Lord Mayor's Show with Aldgate Connect
- Y4 performed at The Classical Roadshow in The Barbican and will share their 'Fire' performance on Tuesday 29th November at 9.15 am for parents and pupils
- Y5 will go on a retreat on 8th December
- Pupils who have been elected or self nominated are the Eco Warriors, Faith Friends, School Council, Playground Leaders and Junior Travel Ambassadors. They meet weekly to help make the school safe and happy for all.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation and I look forward to seeing you at the various events in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent