



English Martyrs School,  
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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."

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents,

I thought it might be helpful for you to have all the Christmas events on one page. We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks of Advent as we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives once again at the start of the new Church Year.

To prepare for Christmas pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 will celebrate Mass in their classrooms and parents are welcome to attend. They will also attend Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December for Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**English Martyrs Church Carol Service** – The Parish Carol Service, '*Carols by Candlelight*' will be held in English Martyrs Church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 4:30pm. There is a £5 entry donation, children under 10 are free. You are all welcome to attend. Raffle tickets are available to buy from the school office costing £2 each and we hope all families will contribute. We have been asked to provide a school choir to perform at the service and invite KS2 pupils to volunteer. Please let the school office know if your child will be able to participate.

**Christmas Fair** – The school Christmas Fair will be held in the school on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November from 12 – 4pm. There will be a range of gift stalls in the hall, '*Elfridges*' gift shop in the library, Santa's Grotto and refreshments will be served. Y6 will sell hand-made Victorian Christmas crafts to raise funds for their School Journey. Thank you to all the parents who have been organising this event. I hope you will be able to come along and support their efforts to raise funds for the school.

**Advent Giving** – Our Catholic Social Teaching theme this term is 'preferential option for the poor'. We have four collection boxes in the school and ask for donations of toiletries for the Jesuit Refugee Centre in Wapping and tinned /dried packet foods for the Ensign Community Hub and Providence Row and The Passage homeless shelters.

Pupils have heard Pope Francis' recent message from the Old Testament, Tobit 4 : 7 'Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor.'

**Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper** - Pupils will be served the traditional Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This is a 'dress warm day' – jeans/trousers/skirt and Christmas jumper. Preloved Christmas jumpers will be on sale at the Christmas Fair on Sunday.

**Christmas 2023 productions** – All Christmas productions will be held in the school hall.

EYFS Advent Assembly - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2:30pm

Years 1, 2 & 3 Nativity - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm

Years 4, 5 & 6 Carol Service - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2:15pm

**Carol Singing** – Pupils have been invited to sing in support of Providence Row and The Passage Homeless Shelters. The public are often more generous when they hear the voices of children singing carols.  
December 6<sup>th</sup> Year 4 will sing at 125 Old Broad Street, 12:15 – 1:30pm  
December 7<sup>th</sup> Year 6 will sing at Whitechapel Station, 1-2pm, to support The Passage Homeless Shelter.  
December 7<sup>th</sup> Year 5 will sing at Spitalfields Market, 1 -2 pm, to support Providence Row Homeless Shelter.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Miss B Nugent