

# St Mary's News

**St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School**  
Barn Street, Stoke Newington,  
LONDON N16 0JT

Dear Parents and Carers

As many of you will be aware, we are saying goodbye to two members of staff as they go off on maternity leave. We wish them best wishes and love as they begin a new chapter in their lives as they become mums for the first time. I am sure you will join us in wishing them the best of luck.

Miss Claire Wood , Business Manager left us on Friday and is due to have her baby on the 19th December. We welcome Miss Helen Goldman who will be acting Business Manager until Miss Wood returns.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Leyla Skinner, Year 2 teacher and Maths lead on 19th December as she starts her maternity leave. Her baby boy is due on 31st December. Could it be the first baby of 2020? We welcome Miss Lauren Graham who will be teaching Year 2 for the rest of the academic year.

Unfortunately, School Friend Club have been unable to recruit for our after school club manager and deputy manager. Therefore again, after much work and a considerable amount of time, St Mary's will be seeking another after school club provider. The staff and governing board are extremely frustrated by the time in which it has taken to get to this point and disappointed that we are still not in a position to run wrap around care. We are determined to make this happen and can only apologise for the lack of progress. I know many of you will be disappointed however this is something we want to resolve as soon as possible.

After not knowing whether we would have enough volunteers to make the Christmas Fair possible, we were delighted to see so many of you turn out to save the day! Without your help we just would not have been able to set up in time or indeed run all of the activities. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We would also like to thank everyone that came to participate in the fun at the Christmas Fair. We raised a healthy profit of £440.00 (we are still collecting receipts for items bought for the fair). of which will be spent on non fiction books.

Best wishes,  
Mrs O'Brien



**Issue 12**  
**9th December**  
**2019**

**Christmas**  
**Dinner &**  
**Christmas**  
**Jumper Day**  
**18.12.19**



**End of Term**  
**Thursday 19th**  
**at 1.30pm**

**Children return**  
**to school on**  
**Monday 6th**  
**January 2020**

# Prayer and reflection

Advent is celebrated in Christian churches over four weeks running up to Christmas, beginning on the fourth Sunday before December 25th.

We have been learning about how Advent has two aspects to it. The first is one of personal anticipation and preparation in being ready to celebrate the coming of the Messiah Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. The second element is the expectation and longing for Christ to come again - this time in great power and glory, and for our hearts and lives to be equally ready for this great event

St Mary's have been lighting the candles on the advent wreath as we approach Christmas.



## Advent prayers

Jesus,  
you are light even in the darkest places.  
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.  
Shine hope into our hearts we pray.  
Amen.

Jesus,  
you are peace even when there is hatred.  
Help us to forgive like you when we are hurt or wounded.  
Bring peace into our hearts we pray.



## Temporary closure of Parent Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

Unfortunately over recent years the numbers of parents that come to meetings to support organising events has significantly reduced and recently we have had only 2 or 3 parents attend which puts lots of pressure and stress on them.

*The PTFA should be a collaboration, a team and that's where we need you.*

The PTFA work hard organising events and fundraising. They do things that bring the St Mary's community together.

Over the years the PTFA have purchased additional **iPads** and **computers** for school, **playground equipment** and **benches**, subscription to **First News** (children's newspaper) and **book bags** for every new child entering Nursery or Reception, just to name a few!

The PTFA organises things like the:

- Summer Fair
- Christmas Fair
- school discos
- Easter competitions
- Personalised Christmas Cards (designed by the children)
- Quiz nights
- House team / PE t-shirts

As we know our parents are fabulous and on the day come out to make events like the Christmas Fair a success. However we do not have enough people to lead and prepare things prior to events.

### How can you help?

Unfortunately, until we get some volunteers that are able to attend PTFA meetings we will not be able to plan any more events or fundraising activities that children and families enjoy and that makes St Mary's such a great community.

For example, these are some of the things that we found challenging in the run up to the Christmas Fair of which we needed volunteers for.

- Parents attending meetings to plan events at mutually convenient times
- Bringing new ideas
- Purchasing plates, cups, napkins for food and drinks
- Selling tickets (raffle tickets or event tickets) at the beginning and end of the school day
- Leading on how things should be set up (in the hall or playground)
- Buying items needed like sweets, wine (for the mulled wine), resources for games etc
- Organising resources we already have, in preparation and maintaining the PTFA shed
- Getting a list of volunteers for the event set up

### Could you volunteer?

- You would need to attend PTFA meetings. These can be organised around times suitable for the volunteers we have. If we have enough volunteers the tasks will be shared which means 'many hands will make light work'.
- **Please register your interest at the main office, if you can help 're open' our PTFA in the Spring term!**