

St. Francis' Catholic Primary Newsletter

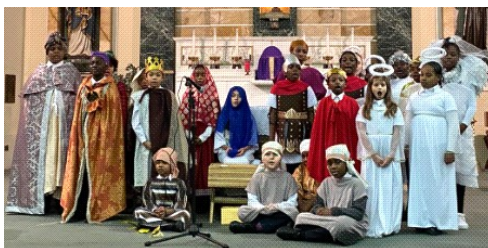
Issue 2 19th December 2022



Celebrating Christmas

This year, the KS2 Carol Concert saw an old star and a new star acting as narrators to retell the story of the first Christmas.

They took the audience on a journey, retelling the events leading up to the birth of the Christ child, and the roles played by different characters as they followed the star to find Jesus. Each year we are privileged to see the results of our children's effort, resilience and talent, as they fill both the Church and our hearts with the true joy of Christmas. The story was shared through Music and Drama and reinforced the fact that Jesus Christ is the true reason we celebrate Christmas and that we too, are special stars.



The Shiniest Star

The Year 2 children put on a musical spectacular worthy of the West End this Christmas. 'The Shiniest Star' told the Christmas Story in a unique 'sung-through' way, almost like a small opera. Starting off with the announcement by the Angel Gabriel that a young lady called Mary would have a very special child. The story moves on to the announcement by Cesar Augustus that he would like to know how many people were in his land. Then the story moves to Bethlehem with singing innkeepers, stable animals and dancing angels and stars! Later the Shiniest Star of all leads the Three Wise Men to meet a King, unfortunately they end up in the palace of King Herod (who isn't best pleased to hear about a new King being born). But of course, eventually they make it to meet the special little family in the stable and meet the true King.



Important Dates

20th December 2022

School finishes
at 2:00 pm

4th January 2023

School reopens first day
of half term

Weeks Beginning

9th & 16th

January 2023

Citizenship Fortnight

20th January 2023

Citizenship Weeks
Celebrations

Week Beginning

6th February 2023

Internet Safety Week

10th February 2023

Last day of half term



The Nativity

Reception classes performed a brilliant Nativity play. The traditional and modern Christmas story taught us about love, giving, hope and faith. The birth of our Saviour of the World is absolutely crucial to our salvation. Jesus is a gift to us all and the key story we performed is part of our story as well. All children enjoyed taking part and experienced a fabulous performance experience.



Money Wise Challenge

A group of year 6 children recently took part in a competition for East London schools called the Money Wise Challenge. They competed against teams from other schools by speed-answering questions on personal finance topics. St Francis' sent two teams; one team came second in the competition and the other team came third.



Armistice Day

The members of school council and the junior leadership team attended a Remembrance Day Service in Central Park. Children from each Newham Catholic School attended along with local clergy and representatives from the Royal British Legion. It was a time to reflect and remember those who lost their lives during the two World Wars as well as in more recent conflicts.



Anti-bullying Week

This Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.

**REACH
OUT**

During Anti-bullying Week, the children explored how they can reach out to help themselves and others. They looked at different roles involved in bullying and looked at how each person involved could reach out to help or be helped. At the end

of Anti-bullying Week, pupils were given an anonymous behaviour questionnaire to complete. Please see the results from the questionnaire below.

89% of the children enjoy school.
90% of the children enjoy the lessons and work hard.
97% of the children feel safe at school.
99% of the children agree that they are encouraged to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
We will continue to work on reaching out throughout the school year.

Going for Gold

To all pupils who have been on Gold since 1st November 2022

Well done



Attendance for the this half term:

Gold: 6G 96%
Silver: 6B 95.9%
Bronze: 2A 94.7%

Attendance must be 100% because any absence affects children's learning and the more they miss the harder it will be for them to catch up.

Architecture in Schools



Year 5 have been taking part in an exciting project called 'Architecture in Schools'. Five brilliant architects from London firm Allford Hall Monaghan Morris supported the children on a field trip and two in school workshops to design and model bridges that would bring connections and community between the two different sides of the River Thames. On Wednesday 30th November, some

of the Year 5 children were able to attend a special award Ceremony at the posh Canary Wharf Estate ... and our bridges won second prize in the 'Use of Materials' category! This is a brilliant achievement for Year 5 - many of whom now aspire to become architects in the future!

Socks Around the Fireplace

This year the staff did a reverse Advent Calendar- 'Socks around the Fireplace'. An imitation fireplace was placed in the staffroom and during Advent, staff members donated pairs of socks. The socks collected will be combined with those collected at St Francis Church and be donated to a charity.

As we can never know what the future holds for any of us. Enjoy this Festive Season. Enjoy the loved ones in your life. Enjoy the food on your table. Embrace the fact that you are able to enjoy this time of year.



Merry Christmas

All of the children and staff at St Francis' would like to wish you and your families a merry Christmas and happy new year.

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and the peace of His Love.

