

# Newsletter

Autumn Term: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025



We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

## Dear Parents,

It has certainly been a week full of joy – starting with the choir carol singing beautifully in Peter Jones, followed by the wonderful performances by the Infants with their Nativity play. We were all incredibly proud of each and every one of the children, as no doubt you were too. Thank you to all of the parents that have helped and supported the school in so many ways at this busy time – it simply wouldn't be possible without you! We look forward to ongoing joy next week – with our beautiful Junior Carol Service and of course our much-anticipated Children's Day – read on for more details.

Wishing you a peaceful Gaudete Sunday.

With my very best wishes, Mrs Steinart

## Upcoming dates

### December

- 16 Dec** Junior Carol Service 7pm
- 18 Dec** Children's Day (Christmas party)
- 19 Dec** End of term 1.30pm

### January 2026

- 5 Jan** Inset Day (no children)
- 6 Jan** Children return
- 9 Jan** House of the term mufti day
- 12 Jan** Winter Week
- 13 Jan** Y3 Mass & First Communion meeting 2.15pm
- 16 Jan** Winter mufti day
- 16 Jan** Year 4 Cake Sale

*Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements*

### January 2026 (cont.)

- 19 Jan** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale
- 19 Jan** Parent & Child Book share 3.45-5.30pm
- 26 Jan** STEM Week
- 26 Jan** Y2 & Y4 Family Mass 2.15pm
- 28 Jan** Parent Forum 10am
- 30 Jan** PTA Gala Breakfast! (8.30am)

### February

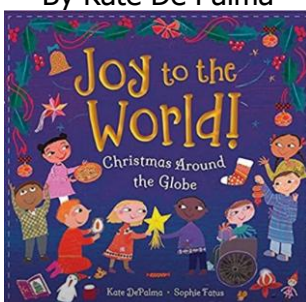
- 6 Feb** Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 9 Feb** Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 Feb** Safer Internet Day
- 13 Feb** Pupil Chaplaincy Team Lent Assembly
- 13 Feb** Year 3 Pancake Sale
- 13 Feb** Half Term 3.30pm
- 23 Feb** Children return
- 24 Feb** Individual & sibling photos
- 25 Feb** Y6 SATs & School Journey Meeting 3.45pm

## This week's theme: ADVENT – JOY

In assemblies this week we have looked at the theme of joy during Advent. In celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we used Mary as our role model of how to bring joy to others. We used the word JOY to remember that Advent is about J – Jesus (The birth of baby Jesus) O – Others (How we can help others?) Y – Yourself (How can we be joyful ourselves?). We then travelled around the world to learn about different Christmas traditions from lots of different countries.

### Story of the Week

*Joy to the World*  
By Kate De Palma



### Music of the Week

*Ave Maria*  
By Franz Schubert



### Art of the Week

*Madonna and Child*  
By Franz Ittenbach



## Junior Carol Service

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December our Junior Carol Service will take place at the Oratory Church. The service will start at 7pm, however, all children must arrive at **St Joseph's hall at 6.40pm**. Children should arrive quietly, as there will be a Mass in progress in the Little Oratory chapel opposite. The pupils must be clean and tidy in appearance, *wearing full school uniform with white shirts, cardigans/jumpers and blazers*. Duffle coats and hats must be left with parents as they cannot be left in St Joseph's hall. At the end of the service, the children will process down the aisle, and wait with their teacher outside where you can collect them. Please let the teacher know that you are taking your child. This is a religious service, and **NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED**. Please ask your friends and relatives too, as unfortunately every year there are a handful of people who sadly do not respect this request and need to be reminded during the service. We would be grateful if some parents could volunteer to carry the heavy benches back to their original positions at the end of the service, please let your rep know if you can help.

## Children's Day

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December is Children's Day. Pupils attend school wearing their own clothes (as Christmas themed as they like) and enjoy lunch that the Parents' Association will very kindly provide. The infants will have an entertainer in the morning and the juniors will have a disco in the afternoon (and I hear there may be some brilliant balloon making going on in between all of this!). The children always have a wonderful day with lots of fun and laughter, plus Father Christmas will also be visiting us again this year! We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover the cost of the day – please log onto [Parent Pay](#) in order to make this.

## Children's Day Biscuits



Calling all bakers! We need lots of lovely volunteers to bake some biscuits for Children's Day. Please let your parent rep know if you are able to provide some biscuits. Thank you in advance!

- We need each class to provide at least 30 biscuits (but the more the merrier!)
- They can be any Christmas shape.
- Simple dough recipe with only a delicate flavouring if you wish (vanilla, cinnamon etc)
- You can leave them plain or add icing
- No nuts or any nut derivatives (nut milk/ almond flour etc). That includes macarons!
- No chocolate                      -Homemade only please

## Carol Singing in Peter Jones

Our school choir serenaded all of the shoppers in Peter Jones beautifully on Monday afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed themselves too! Well done, choir!



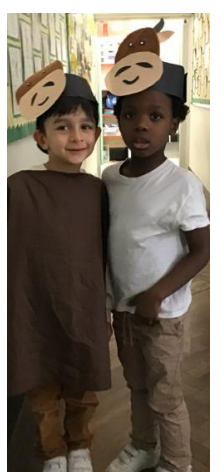


# Spectacular Stable by Starlight Infant Nativity!

The Infants certainly filled us all with joy this week with their fabulous Nativity performance, full of wonderful singing, acting and joyful action! Well done Infants on a spectacular show!











## PINES AND NEEDLES

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT OUR SCHOOL HAS AGAIN BEEN DONATED  
A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREE BY PINES AND NEEDLES

AS PART OF THEIR GIFT, THEY ARE ALSO OFFERING PARENTS  
10% OFF CHRISTMAS TREES  
FROM THEIR LONDON POP-UP STORES AND ONLINE SHOP

FOLLOW @PINESANDNEEDLES FOR FESTIVE ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL STORES  
AND VISIT [WWW.PINESANDNEEDLES.COM](http://WWW.PINESANDNEEDLES.COM) FOR FULL DETAILS  
AND ALL STORE LOCATIONS ACROSS LONDON

**Christmas Tree Discount Code**  
**SCHOOL10**



## Year 3 Class Mass & First Holy Communion Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2.15pm



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm, we will be celebrating the Year 3 Class Mass which will then be followed by a meeting about First Holy Communion arrangements.

## Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday: 'rejoice Sunday.' The Mass begins with the words of St Paul: "rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: rejoice! The Lord is near." The reason for our rejoicing, then, is that Christmas, which celebrates the birth of God-made-man among His people, is at the gates. But let us never forget that the Lord is always near to us, nearer than we are to ourselves, and desires us to welcome Him into our hearts. If we allow Him in, through a good Confession this Advent, He makes them pure, and fit to inhabit His Kingdom in Heaven.

## Wednesday Word

[Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
December 2025](#)

## Outstanding Payments – Autumn Term

As we come to the end of another wonderful term at the Oratory, please refer to your ParentPay account [ParentPay](#) for any outstanding dues. We are always appreciative of your generosity to the children and the school community and would be grateful if these could be settled as soon as possible before the break for Christmas.  
School Office

## Our Green Orators Eco Team



Meet our Green Orators Eco Team, who gathered this week for a wonderfully successful meeting bursting with smart, sustainable suggestions - from saving school energy to planting patches of greenery, litter-picking, upcycling fashion and so much more. Here's to a fantastic year of spectacular, supercharged sustainability!

# Caritas Westminster Advent Giving Calendar

During this season of Advent, we will be collecting for the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar as a way of supporting those who may need extra support this Christmas. I explained to the children in assembly that you can bring items on any day you wish. There will be boxes in the hall for the children to leave their donations. We then need some kind parent volunteers to do some food bank runs when you can – please let me or Markus know – many thanks in advance!





# What's been going on in class this week?

## Year 6

Another busy and productive week in Year 6: lots of great learning alongside preparations for the carol service next week.

PE: Due to the wet weather, Y6 took a break from Rugby and practised some Gymnastics this week.

English: We finished our unit of persuasive writing by composing appeals for people to rehome animals that served during WWI. Then, we started our Christmas visual literacy unit by watching the 'Christmas Truce' and making inferences about the characters. We began writing our letter home from the trenches, recounting the events of the Christmas Truce.

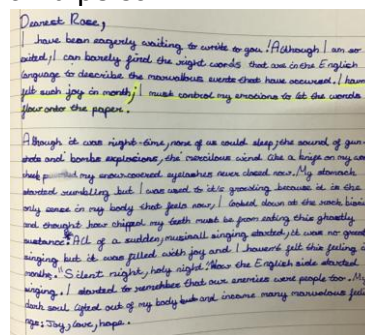
Maths: Multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by integers and by other fractions; dividing fractions by whole numbers

RE: We started our Christmas preparation by reflecting on the Annunciation and discussing how Mary's response to Angel Gabriel showed her love and faith in God. We explored the mystery of the Incarnation and what it means that God is truly man and truly human.

History: This week we used a variety of sources to learn about the life of Anne Frank and her time in hiding.

Science: Explaining why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them: creating shadow puppets and investing how to make the biggest and clearest shadow possible

Latin: To understand and translate infinitives and conjugate them into the third person



## Year 5

What a lovely week we have had here in Year 5. While we've been busy watching the infant nativity and practicing for our own carol concert, we've also found time for lots of other learning! Here's a snippet:

**In English**, we have been using modal verbs, abstract nouns, and various persuasive techniques to complete a persuasive letter urging for Pap to be released. We then presented our letters to the class, using great expression when reading.

**In Maths**, we've been adding and subtracting fractions, including adding to and subtracting from a mixed number.

**In RE**, Year 5 has been learning about the true meaning of Christmas. They reflected on how Christmas celebrates love, kindness, and the birth of Jesus.

**In PE**, we've discovered the rules, teamwork, and skills needed to play, such as passing, tackling, and running with the ball. Through practice and games, we've worked together to improve our communication and strategy on the field.

**In Design Technology**, we prepared and cooked Egyptian stew. It was delicious!

**In Art**, we finished our attractive and informative sketchbook pages on Egyptian art.

Have a wonderful weekend, Miss Cornes, Miss Carmody and Miss Ffyon



# Year 4:

Year 4 have been working hard once again this week across all areas.

**English:** We compiled a fantastic list of expanded noun phrases which we used to contrast the settings in our text. We learned about the present perfect tense and wrote a postcard in role based on our story.

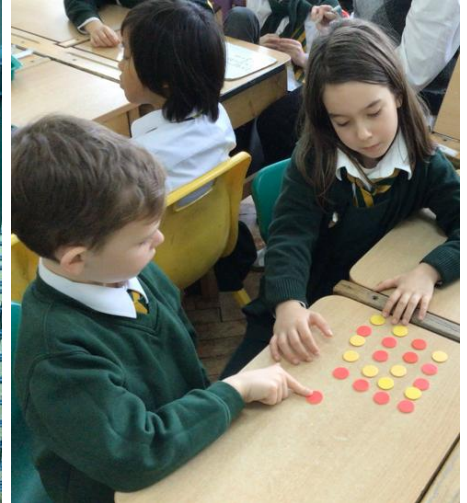
**Maths:** We learned about factors when multiplying. We used arrays to understand factors and practised identifying factors and factor pairs.

**R.E:** We reflected on how Joseph trusted in God and the type of person he was. We spoke about what qualities of Joseph we should try and adopt when trusting in God.

**Geography:** We used a case study to examine the positive and negative impact of volcanoes and discussed how volcanoes can benefit the people who live near them.

**Science:** We explored pitch and amplitude, and drew different soundwaves to represent different sounds.

**P.E:** We really put out rugby skills into practice in lots of matches!



# Year 3:

Year 3 have had a wonderful week!

This week Year 3 have learnt:

- In Maths, we consolidated our 5-10 times table learning from Year 2. We also looked at multiplying and dividing by 4.
- In English, we were inspired by our Christmas advert 'The Greatest Gift' to write a character description and diary entry in role as Dad.
- In RE, we reflected on the presence of the shepherds at the Nativity.
- In French, we learnt the names of school subjects in French.
- In Science, we learnt that magnets have two poles; like poles repel and opposite poles attract.
- In PSHE, we reflected on the rights we have as humans and as children.
- In DT, we finished our own kaleidoscopes.
- In PE, we worked on our rugby skills in a game situation.





## Year 2:

What brilliant performances from Year 2 this week! We are so proud of the children for all of the hard work and effort that they put into their Nativity performances. Well done Year 2! Here is what else the children have been up to this week:

- In **English**, we wrote our own part of the story in which our own beasts went on wild journeys to find the Lonely Beast.
- In **Maths**, we have been continuing to add two 2-digit numbers with exchanging.
- In **RE**, we have reflected on how the shepherds may have felt when the angels appeared to them. We made our own stained glass windows showing the birth of Jesus.
- In **Science**, we have been learning about the different food groups. We thought about how we keep healthy and discussed the food groups you should eat more and less of.
- In **History**, we learnt about the importance of fire safety around the school



## Year 1:

This week Year 1 shone brightly on stage during their Nativity performances, filling the hall with festive cheer, big smiles, and plenty of proud moments. We are so proud of their hard work and teamwork to produce such a wonderful performance. Alongside all the practising, this is what else we have been learning:

**History:** In History we have been comparing the past to present day. Looking at Lyme Regis in the 1800, 1900s and in current day to find similarities and differences and to find out what life was like when Mary Anning was alive.

**Maths:** In Maths we have been continuing to learn about 2D and 3D shapes. We played a game to identify and sort 2D shapes into groups.

**Literacy:** In Literacy we have been writing our own instructions to make terrible soup! Using instructional language and commands we created a creative recipe using adjectives and nouns.

**Religious Education:** In RE we learnt about how the Shepherds were chosen to celebrate the birth of Jesus and we retold the Nativity story.

**Art:** In Art we created our hats ready for children's day.

**Phonics:** In Phonics we have started to learn about trigraphs and explored words containing 'air'.

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 team.



## Reception:

Reception have had a very busy week practising for the Nativity. We are very proud of all the work they put in and their amazing performances!

Phonics: This week, we have been reading and writing longer words such as "sunset" "picnic".

Maths: We have continued to consolidate understanding of number composition to numbers to 5.

EAD: The children have enjoyed using stamps, cutting and sticking to create The Naughty Bus shadow pictures around London.

RE: We have continued discussing the Nativity story and reading our Advent books.





PD: The children have been practising their throwing and catching skills in PE and have continued to work on their handwriting.



## PUPIL OF THE WEEK & ACT OF KINDNESS

Congratulations to these children who have had an extra special week and received Pupil of the Week and Act of Kindness awards. Keep up the great work!

	Pupil of the Week	Act of Kindness
<b>Reception</b>	Livia	Oliver
<b>Year 1</b>	Bella	Kennena
<b>Year 2</b>	Maria	Ellis
<b>Year 3</b>	Vitti	Justin
<b>Year 4</b>	Fred	Juliette
<b>Year 5</b>	Gabriel	Immanuel
<b>Year 6</b>	Felix	Maximus
<b>Special Act of Kindness</b>		Aryan (Y3)

 <b>House of the Week</b> 	 <b>Class of the Week</b> 
<b>Green House</b>	<b>Reception</b> (For being such terrific twinkling stars!)