



## Message from the Headteacher

As 2022 draws to a close I want to say thank you to all of our families for welcoming all of the new staff to the school including me! It has been great getting to know our children and was a treat last week watching the Christmas practice and performances in church. Thank you to all of our children who were able to show respect for each other and enjoy playing in the snow, it was a real surprise for us all. Many schools closed or stopped the children going in the snow but our children's behaviour meant that we were able to trust them.

Following consultation with parents and staff we have launched our new school values that are matched to the Spring trust. They are shown below. All of our children entered a competition to design the logos, well done to Rubie in Y6 whose drawing was chosen as the "respect" image. We all strive to follow these values in school and the children's

efforts and behaviours are matched up against these values.

Thank you to all of our families who have got their children into school on some of the tricky days, smart uniform and good attendance places them in a strong position ready to learn. We aim for children to be in school every day, the target of 96% is around 9 days absent across the whole school year. Well done to the many still on 100%!

Finally, on behalf of all of the staff at St Mary Cray Primary, I would like to wish a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to all of our families. I hope you have a peaceful and restful time together and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next year on Wednesday the 4th of January.

Best wishes,

Mr Jamieson





## Science Fayre 2022

On Tuesday 20th December, we had our inaugural Science Fayre at school!

For the days and weeks leading up to the day itself, the children of SMC were hard at work at home producing an activity or model to share with their peers. While their inventions/investigations fell into the important categories below, this was an opportunity for the children to express and grow their own ideas and interests:

- Improving something that already exists
- Creating something to help the environment
- Recycling something into something else
- Teaching and Learning

It was wonderful to see so many exciting experiments walk past me on the gate, and it was brilliant to receive so many presentations via email.



Our day was broken down into many moving parts: we researched famous Scientists; we took part in a Christmas Science Quiz; we performed fun experiments; we shared our Science Fayre entries with our class; we had a special guest, Magnus, give us a Science challenge to perform in our classrooms; and finally we selected winners of the Fayre in assembly at the end of the day to receive their certificates and prizes! What a busy day!

Many, many congratulations to everyone who made the effort and took part, but especially to our winners: **Francesca, Jenell, Kesiena, Sophia, Jacob, Jennifer, Lauren, Tilly.** Honourable mentions - **Mohammad, Chelsea, Uthman and Assane.**

And a huge thank you to Magnus and to Mrs Paris for supporting and organising. Have a Merry Christmas everyone!







It is always useful to hear the perspective of parents on the topic of Science; we would be grateful if parents could fill in the survey on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/eU4TNFsyMRhhD2BL6>

Thank you



## Cross Country

On Saturday 12th November, Years 5 and 6 took part in the Bromley Cross Country. We left bright and early in the morning with Mr Jamieson taking our children on a minibus with Max and William's Mum along for vital support!

Once we arrived at Crystal Palace park, we were amazed at the magnitude of the event - literally hundreds of children were warming up in the cold. Our children performed admirably and we were so proud to see them representing themselves and the school wonderfully!

Many, many thanks to Mrs Valder, Mr Jamieson, Mr Coy and Mrs Heinrich for supporting on the day, and huge congratulations to **Reggie, Callum, Annie, Nisha, Leo, Mai Li, Elizabeth, William, Aswin, Unnati, Heyls, Halle, Emily, Armani, Khloe, Ralphie and Ojas.**

Well done all!







# St Mary Cray Primary Academy

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## Lost Property New Year Resolution

We would like to ask all parents and carers to make a **new year's resolution** to ensure that children's clothing and property are labelled with their name, **especially coats, jumpers and cardigans!**

All un-named, unclaimed lost property is thrown away at the end of term, so please ensure that you check at the School Office for all lost items.

We are expecting a **brand new** Lost Property Box in the new year, which will be stored in the signing-in area of the School Office. Watch this space!



## Community News

**LIGHTOPIA**  
FESTIVAL • LONDON  
17 NOV 2022 - 2 JAN 2023

**A CHRISTMAS FANTASY**  
at Crystal Palace Park

**KIDS GO FREE**  
USE CODE: LFLKIDSGOFREE100

TICKETS & INFO: [LONDON.LIGHTOPIA.COM](http://LONDON.LIGHTOPIA.COM)

**LIGHTOPIA**  
FESTIVAL

**DESIGN A LANTERN COMPETITION**

RUNNING UNTIL END OF JANUARY  
ENTRIES OPEN TO ALL AGES

What we need from you..

Design your own magical lantern creation on a piece of A4 paper.

Please use lots of colour so we can get a firm idea of your concept.

Please send it in to [kat.m@outreachcreative.com](mailto:kat.m@outreachcreative.com) by January 31st. The winners will be contacted by Valentines Day 2023 and we will commence building your lantern for Christmas! There will also be 5 runners up who will all win family tickets. For inspiration please visit: [www.lighttopiafestival.com](http://www.lighttopiafestival.com)

We look forward to seeing your creations!

[WWW.LIGHTOPIAFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.LIGHTOPIAFESTIVAL.COM)





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*Bromley Y*  
**Christmas & New Year**  
**Operating Hours**  
**2022/23**

Up to Friday 23rd December-Normal Working hours  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday 24th December**-Closed  
**Sunday 25th December**-Closed  
**Monday 26th December**-Closed  
**Tuesday 27th December**-Closed  
**Wednesday 28th December**-9-5pm  
**Thursday 29th December**- 9-5pm  
**Friday 30th December**- 9-5pm  
**Saturday 31st December**- Closed  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday 1st January**-Closed  
**Monday 2nd January**-Closed  
**Tuesday 3rd January**-Normal working hours resume



**Xmas4schools™**  
**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**  
WELL DONE KIDS, YOU HAVE HELPED RAISE

**£103**

ST MARY.CRAY PRIMARY

*Happy Christmas*



To register for the 2023 Christmas Project, please call 01233 624462

## Excellence Awards



A very hearty congratulations to all of our Excellence Award Winners this half term! Well done and keep on being amazing!



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### Sapphire Class

This term in Sapphire class we have been learning all about Space using the story books *Man on the Moon*, *Whatever Next* and *Aliens Love Underpants!* We talked about some of the different planets, including Saturn with its rings and Jupiter with its giant red spot. Having watched videos of rockets taking off, we learnt about astronauts and how they live on the space station where there is very little gravity, which means they can float around! In one lesson, we watched the video of the Apollo 11 moon landing that happened 53 years ago in 1969! We also loved playing in our Space Station!

On the run up to Christmas we read the story 'A Christmas Carol' about Scrooge and talked about how people lived when Queen Victoria was on the

throne; heating their homes with coal fires, using candles for lighting and writing with quills - something we got to try ourselves in class! It was fascinating to learn how people lived differently in the past.

In Maths, we have been learning all about numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. We have been practising counting items, sorting and matching objects and learning about 2d shapes.

Finally, one of our highlights was a trip to Orpington Library. We walked all the way there and listened carefully as the librarian read us some stories and talked about the library. We got to look around at the books and even got the bus back to school!







## Topaz Class

This has been a busy half term in Topaz class; the children have been working hard learning cursive handwriting, writing sentences with the correct structure and editing them. In Maths they have been working out number facts within 20, comparing numbers, counting on from ten and then counting the ones. We also looked at 2D and 3D shapes and the children were creating patterns with them. In Science we have been learning about animals including humans, the different structures, habitats and diets. In Art the children have been learning about primary colours and how to make secondary colours by mixing them, we have also been tinting and shading using a primary colour. In History we learned about the Ice Age and the adaptations that happened over time. In RE we have been looking at the Christmas story as well as

practising for our Nativity play, we hope you enjoyed it!

We have also been enjoying our own forest school this term, the children thoroughly enjoy learning and exploring outside and having a well-deserved drink and biscuit.

Well done Topaz class for all of your hard work!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2023!

Best Wishes,

Miss Mills, Mrs Matthews and Miss Wilson





## Opal & Pearl Class

Another busy half-term has come to an end. We have been extra busy with 'travelling' to China to learn about the Shang Dynasty – we enjoyed this History Topic especially making our oracle bones and carving our names on them; not so much tasting the Ginger Millet Porridge. In PE we learnt the pencil jump – we were very good at keeping our arms straight and learnt how to play hockey. Rehearsals for our Christmas Carol were so much fun and it was made extra special by having all the parents join us in the Church. We ended the term with a good old fashion American Science Fayre where we saw lots of 'cool' experiments and projects.

We look forward to 2023, but for now Opal and Pearl would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Diamond Class

The children have been working well to develop their learning and socialising skills. They are now much more confident in using their oracy skills across the various subjects. In English we have been learning about newspaper articles and trying to create an article about the book *Varjak Paw*. In Maths we have been trying to develop our multiplication skills and learning how to work out the area of common 2d shapes. We have learnt about the Vikings in History, the digestive system in science and we also did our end of unit performance following our learning of djembe drumming with Mrs Rabin from The Bromley Youth Music Trust. A highlight of this term has been the teamed up performance for the Christmas

presentation with Year 3. The children put on an amazing performance for parents at the Temple church.







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### Emerald Class

Emerald class have been very busy this half term! We have all had so much fun in our swimming and forest school lessons and very much look forward to these continuing into the Spring term. In science this half term, we have explored all 5 types of scientific enquiry; one of our favourite was conducting a comparative and fair test into which material would be the best at preventing chocolate from melting! Our English lessons have been based on the book, *The Boy at the Back of the Classroom*, about a Syrian refugee child adjusting to their new life in England. We have been touched to learn about the difficult experiences had by many refugee children and were inspired to write and deliver a persuasive speech, urging our audience to treat

refugees with kindness and fairness. In the run up to Christmas, Emerald class have revisited the Christmas story in their RE lessons and participated in a passionate debate discussing whether the Christmas story is "true", and what "truth," means. Children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada in their history lessons and put their drama skills to the test in the form of a historical talk show! We have ended the year spreading Christmas joy within our local community, singing beautifully at the Nugent centre and our local church. Thank you Emerald for all of your hard work this Autumn term! A very Merry Christmas to those who celebrate.

Miss Hillier and Mrs DeCastro.



### Ruby Class

As we approach the end of the first term in Year 6, it has provided us with a great opportunity to reflect on the hard work we have produced so far this year. Our main topic for this half term has been studying World War One in History. We were able to explore the impact of the war in the trenches as well as its influence on the home front. As well as this, we have read two of the works of Michael Morpurgo in *War Horse* and *Private Peaceful*. These two texts, set during World War One, have allowed us to gain a better understanding of the sacrifices made by all during the war, something we were

able to consider when visiting Orpington War Memorial just before Remembrance Day.

In Science we have been looking at electricity and we have been able to understand circuits and be able to draw them using the correct electrical symbols. In RE we have looked at how modern day Christmas continues to link to the story of Jesus' birth and how some modern traditions take ideas that are from the Nativity.

From all in Year 6, we wish you a wonderful Christmas break and a very happy new year.





# St Mary Cray Primary Academy

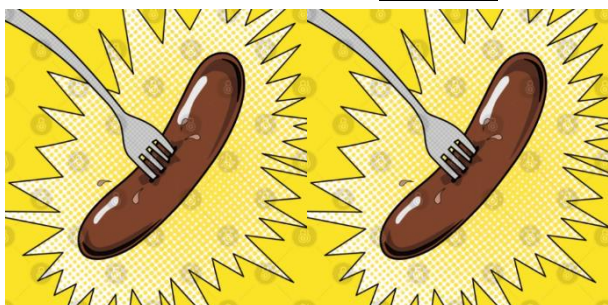
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## Reminders

### Changes to School Meals

There will be a slight amendment to the School meals when children return to school on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**. The kitchen will still be serving a Wednesday roast dinner, but in place of beef the children will receive sausages.



### School Rules Reminder

- We are a NUT FREE school. Please do not bring in any foods containing nuts.
- Make up is not allowed in school – lip balms (for chapped/sore lips) are acceptable but these **must not** be tinted.
- Chocolate and sweets are not allowed in school or in packed lunches.
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle every day.

## Absence Reporting

If your child is off school due to illness or any other reason, you must report this either by phone or by email by 09:00am, and provide a letter on his/her return. You may also use Class Dojo, however **please only message the School Office, and not Class Teachers/SLT.**

It is important that you keep in touch with school by telephoning the School Office **every day of your child's absence**.

If the school does not receive daily communication and we are unable to make contact with you, then a home visit or call to social services may be required.

Please note - To school must always be notified if your child contracts an infectious disease, regardless of whether they are absent with the illness.

Kind regards,

Mr Jamieson  
Headteacher

## Equality and Diverison (EDI)

At SMCPA we have started to integrate the use of the learning platform "Lyfta". This is an interactive tool that teachers and students are using as a way of increasing our knowledge of cultures and people from around the world.

It is always useful to hear the perspective of parents on the topic of EDI; please could you take a few minutes to fill out the survey in the following link:

<https://forms.gle/Jbf3rTt12XwJpEwX6>

Thank you

Mr Ricketts





## PTA Christmas Fair

This year saw a very welcome return to school for the Annual PTA Christmas Fair! We had an amazing turnout and can announce that we made in excess of **£1,100** for the school! Thank you so much to all our wonderful PTA parents for organising and running this event, and to all who attended.







## Christmas Carols at the Nugent

If you were passing by the Nugent recently you may have heard our very own Year 5 and 6 children, who braved the cold to sing carols to local shoppers!



## Onyx Class

This half term we've been hard at work learning about a range of books in English such as The True Story of the Three Little Pigs and One Plastic Bag. In Maths we have been revisiting 2D/3D shapes and how to use a range of methods to add and subtract

two/three digit numbers. We've become artists this term using colour mixing skills with skittles and paint, and even used our art skills in our History lessons to create our own firework display after learning about Guy Fawkes.







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CHILDREN WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL ON

**WEDNESDAY 4TH JANUARY**

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!*

