

NEWSLETTER



Mary
of the Cross
Federation



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23rd November 2018

Message from the Head of School

Next week is whole school assessment week. The children will sit reading and mathematics tests in class. Teachers will use the results of the tests to plan next term's work and to decide where extra support might be needed for some children. Children must arrive by 8.45am so that they do not miss out on any learning time.

We are fortunate to have the support of our Friends of School committee, a dedicated group of parents working to raise funds for our children. Please come along and offer your help for future events.

The season of Advent is fast approaching and we will soon begin our spiritual preparations for Christmas. It has been wonderful to hear the children practising for our forthcoming Carol Service. Please check the diary dates so that you do not miss any of the special events planned for December.

Mrs D Potterton

Liturgy in School

Please join us for whole school liturgy on **Monday at 9.00 am.**
The theme for our prayer and worship next week is:
Born For This

Dear Jesus, sometimes it is hard to tell the truth because people may not like it and they may get angry. Please help me to tell the truth always, especially when it is difficult. Amen



FoS Disco

Please join us on Thursday 29th November for the Friends of School Disco

Key Stage 1

3:30-4:30pm

*£1.50 per child plus money for tuck shop
(maximum £2.00 please)*

Key Stage 2

4:45-5:45pm

*£1.50 per child plus money for tuck shop
(maximum £5.00 please)*

Siblings £1.00

Every Minute Counts

Minutes late per day	Equates to days of teaching lost in one year
5 mins	10 Days
10 mins	7 Days
15 mins	10.5 Days
20 mins	14 Days
30 mins	21 Days

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Julia Donaldson	92.40%
Roald Dahl	96.00%
Michael Morpurgo	95.93%
David Walliams	98.24%

Since the introduction of Free School Meals for all children in Year 2 and below we have experienced a fall in the number of families registering their entitlement to Free School Meals. The actual meals are not the only benefit for families who meet the Free School Meal criteria. Once a child is registered for Free School Meals they automatically become entitled to Pupil Premium Funding which lasts for at least six years. At the moment each child attracts an extra £1320 each year. One of the ways we use the Pupil Premium grant is to pay for school trips. We also pay for extra teaching hours which are directed particularly towards closing gaps in, or extending, the learning of children who are entitled to pupil premium funding. The amount of money the school will receive under the new national funding formula being proposed by the government is also likely to increase if we have more children registered as being entitled to free school meals.

If you meet ANY of the criteria below you can attract this extra funding for your child and the school.

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (most recent award notice – with no Working Tax Credit AND annual income not exceeding £16,190)
- Guarantee element of pension credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act

If you do receive any of the above support please ask the office for a Free School Meals form.

Here is a list of some important dates confirmed for this year.

All information is available on our website calendar.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27th November

Donkey Roadshow for Key Stage 1

Thursday 29th November

Key Stage 1 Disco: 3:30-4:30pm

Key Stage 2 Disco: 4:45-5:45pm

Thursday 6th December

Christmas lunch

Friday 7th December

FoS Christmas Fair

Tuesday 11th December

Christmas Productions at the Cathedral, 1:30 & 6:00pm performances

Friday 21st December

Last day of term, 3:15pm

Monday 7th January

First day of term, 8:30am

Friday 15th February

Non pupil day

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***Please join our wonderful choir on Sunday 25th November
for the Barbican Lights switch on***

All day	Polar Bear Trail – collect trail forms from the Tourist Information Centre
2pm to 5pm	Polar bear DVD and Explorer Activity sheets in the Tourist Information Centre
2pm to 5pm	Xmas Biscuit decorating with CaterED in the Tourist Information Centre
2pm	Xmas balloon making outside the Tourist Information Centre
3pm to 5.45pm	The Grinch will be causing havoc around the Barbican
3pm to 5pm	Glitter tattoos and singing with the Party Princesses on Southside Street
3pm	Christmas show outside the Tourist Information Centre
3.20pm	University of Plymouth A Cappella Society performing on Southside Street
3.40pm	Mayflower A Cappella Chorus performing on Southside Street
3.40pm	The Sound Council performing on Southside Street
4pm – 5.45pm	Elf Stiltwalkers
4pm	Mary of the Cross Federation singing carols on Southside Street
4.30pm	Santa arrives on the RNLI Lifeboat
5pm	Santa & the Lord Mayor to switch on the Southside Street Xmas lights from Citybus open top bus on Southside Street
5.45pm	Finish