



St. George's
Catholic Primary School

In everything we do today, we're following Jesus and his way

School Newsletter

Newsletter 15

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 18 December

Headteacher: Mr P O'Rourke
Deputy Heads: Mrs C McGivern
Mrs S Hukowski
Assistant Head: Mrs L Byfield
SENCo: Mrs J Burke

Next Week in School

Friday 19 December
End of Term Mass
School Closes for Christmas 2pm



Monday 5 January
Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 6 January
School reopens for the spring term

Wednesday 7 January
Mass for the Epiphany

Our School Houses	House Points	
St Thérèse of Lisieux	368	Blue
St Oscar Romero	407	Red
St Francis of Assisi	384	Yellow
St Josephine Bakhita	310	Green

Advent Giving Calendar

A huge thank you for the many kind donations received as part of the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar. All of the donations will go to the North Enfield Foodbank. During this season of Advent, we are reminded of our call to live out the Gospel by loving and caring for our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. Your kindness reflects our Catholic commitment to service, love and solidarity, and will make a real difference to those who need it most. Please continue to keep in your prayers all those in our community at this time of year.

As we approach the final days of this Advent season, I am delighted to reflect on the wonderful events that have taken place at our school.

Our Christmas preparations have culminated beautifully, with the Little Dragons nativity serving as a really memorable highlight. Witnessing such young children demonstrate remarkable confidence and bravery as they spoke and sang for their families was an absolute joy. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the dedicated who worked tirelessly to prepare our pupils for this wonderful performance.

The Carol Service on Monday evening was a testament to our school's vibrant community spirit. The children from Year 2 and Year 6 sang beautifully, creating a moment of musical celebration. I am very grateful to all the staff involved in preparing the service and to our families who supported the event in such significant numbers. It was, without doubt, a genuine community occasion that brought us all together.

We hope that the various performances and liturgies have helped you personally prepare spiritually for Christmas, which is now just a week away.

Today's Christmas Jumper Day has been another opportunity for our community to come together. We continue to collect contributions for the memorial in memory of Lily Burton, with many parents making incredibly generous donations. To all who have contributed, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Payments are welcomed through your ParentPay account.

I must also acknowledge our exceptional catering staff, led by Lena, who consistently perform wonders in feeding a large number of children in limited time. Despite the hindrance of our leadership team serving lunch yesterday, they delivered outstanding Christmas lunches with their usual professionalism and care.

As we conclude what has been an exceptionally busy term at St George's, I want to express my deepest appreciation to our entire school community for the unwavering support we have received.

We wish you all a very happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas.



"Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" (Pope Francis)



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

(Matthew 25:40)



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LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD



MR P. O'ROURKE BA (Hons), NPQH, MA
Headteacher

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15 December 2025

Dear Parents,

The Christmas season brings a unique excitement to St George's, as many of you will have experienced in recent weeks, at various productions, concerts and liturgies. It is always a pleasure to see the children flourish in their performances, and while congratulating them I also extend my thanks to the staff, who work so hard to prepare such memorable and impressive occasions.

As 2025 draws to a close, I also wanted to highlight some of the successes achieved this year within the classroom. While you are no doubt aware of the school's strong inspection results last term, the governors were delighted to note that the Year 6 SATs results saw 81% of children achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined, while 93% achieved the expected standard in English grammar, punctuation and spelling – comparing to a national average of 73%, and placing St George's in the top 10% of schools nationwide. It is particularly pleasing to see these strong outcomes from pupils who have progressed through the whole school, as it is a success in which all staff, across every year group, can take pride for having directly contributed towards.

At the other end of the school, the governors were similarly impressed to note that 96% of Year 1 pupils achieved the expected standard in their phonics assessments, a figure that was 15% higher than the national average. Underscoring all these results, we recently heard the fantastic news that St George's was ranked within *The Times'* select list of the top 1,000 primary schools in the country.

Once again, while congratulating the children on their hard work, we warmly praise Mr O'Rourke and all the staff for working so hard to help pupils across the school fulfil their academic potential. This is all the more impressive at a time when the school's finances have been so severely hit, by changes to the National Funding Formula and a serious diminution of external funding. Our staff are effectively being asked to 'do more with less', and in this context, such strong academic performance is to their huge credit, and merits high praise.

In light of the challenging financial context, I also wanted to thank Helping Hands, our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), which over the course of the year has been reinvigorated under the stewardship of Christina Mannion-Grant and her team. Helping Hands has arranged a variety of high-profile events, most recently the successful Christmas Fair, attracting large numbers and generating vital additional funding. With the school's budget increasingly limited, we are extremely grateful for the extra revenue that has been directed towards various initiatives, lately including improved Reception and playground facilities.

Finally, you were informed earlier this term of the governors' intention for the school to join a Catholic Academy Trust; to update, at this stage engagement with relevant bodies is continuing on this complex process, and updates will follow next term as this progresses.

On behalf of the governors I wish you a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Michael Lacquiere

(Chair of Governors)



Our Christmas Choir brought festive cheer to Tesco in Enfield on Tuesday, replacing the usual background music with their wonderful singing for their final performance of the season.

Earlier this term, the choir has also brightened the day for patients at Chase Farm Hospital, entertained residents at Elsyng House care home and taken part in the 'Show Up Singers' Christmas Showcase, led by our talented music teacher, Mr Cox

These performances have reflected our school's commitment to community spirit and kindness. We are incredibly proud of every pupil's dedication and talent.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported the choir's events this term. Your encouragement and involvement make these opportunities possible and help our pupils shine.

A special thank you to Mr Cox for inspiring our pupils and making music such a vibrant part of life at St George's.



Last week, our Year 3 children delighted us with their Advent concert, sharing traditional Christmas carols filled with joy and spirit. The children were thrilled to perform and loved having their family and friends in the audience. Thank you to everyone who supported our young singers. Your encouragement made the event truly special!

A Pupil of Distinction

I am delighted to pass on the news that Robson (5B) achieved a Distinction in his Grade 1 Classical Guitar exam. His family are very proud of him and forwarded me this great picture of the maestro himself.

Speaking personally, and as a fellow guitarist, music has offered me such brilliant opportunities over the years, most of them now cherished memories. It's great to learn that Robson is now beginning that journey...with a distinction too!

Congratulations!

Upcoming Dates

Advance warning of some key school dates. The school calendar is constantly updated on the school website, under the parents information section.

December

Fri 19th End of term Mass
School closes for Christmas 2pm

January

Mon 5th Teacher training day
Tues 6th School reopens
Weds 7th Mass for the Epiphany
Thurs 15th Admissions deadline (reception & nursery)
Year 5 swimming starts
6W Celebration of the Word assembly
MYME coffee afternoon
Weds 21st 4OS Celebration of the Word assembly
Fri 23rd RG Stay and Play
Mon 26th Reception/ Year 6 Height and weight check
Weds 28th 5CN Celebration of the Word assembly
Fri 30th RS Stay and Play

February

Wed 4th 3A Celebration of the Word assembly
Thurs 5th Year 4 to St Albans Abbey
Fri 6th RG Stay and Play
Feast of St Josephine Bakhita

Please consult the calendar section of our school website where dates for the year ahead are continually updated.

Admissions

Admissions Deadline for Nursery and Reception – Thursday 15 January 2026

If your child is due to start Nursery or Reception at St George's Catholic Primary School in September 2026, please ensure you submit your application by the deadline of Thursday 15 January 2026.

How to Apply:

- **Nursery Applications:** Please complete the [nursery application](#) form available on our school website.
- **Reception Applications:** Applications for Reception places must be made through the [Enfield Admissions](#) website. In addition to the online application, please provide any required supporting documents directly to the school. Further details and guidance on the application process and required documents can be found on our school website.

Submitting your application on time will help avoid any delays or complications. Please visit [our website](#) or contact the school office if you need any assistance with the application process.



Reminders

Now
Christmas jumper day contributions on ParentPay

Friday
School closes at 2pm

Tues Jan 6th
First day of term





RADIO MARIA ENGLAND

On Tuesday 16th December, Sebastian, Sonari, Mairead and Apollonia were invited to attend the Radio Maria studio in Camden. The children had a tour of the studios, some lovely snacks to eat and then attended their prize ceremony. Prior to the distribution of medals and trophies, we listened to inspiring words from Jerry and Fr Toby, along with some beautiful music. It was lovely to hear children from other schools talk about and perform their entries. We were reminded that it is important to nurture each other's gifts and to continue to build one another up. The children learnt that the great work that they have already started is just the beginning of even greater things to come and that we can always pray to God to give us courage and strength to keep pursuing our gifts and talents for the service of others.

The children then had the amazing opportunity to speak on a radio show! There was a red light that said 'On air' which meant that we had to stay really quiet whilst each child was interviewed! We were full of pride listening to the children talk about their entries and what they love about attending school here at St. George's. We look forward to sharing the recording with you soon. In the new year, the children will host their own radio programme and will regularly meet to plan and discuss the content of this. Congratulations again to our Radio Maria Ambassadors: Sebastian, Sonari, Mairead and Apollonia!



A Farewell to Mrs Fearnley

After a remarkable career spanning over three decades, Mrs. Fearnley is retiring from St George's Catholic Primary School, where she has been a cherished member of our community since 2007. Beginning her teaching journey in 1989, she has brought a wealth of experience, adaptability, and dedication to the many roles she has undertaken across the school.

Mrs. Fearnley has been a passionate advocate for school sports, often going above and beyond by supporting events in her own time. Her commitment to fostering teamwork, resilience, and a love of physical activity has inspired countless pupils and colleagues alike.

We are grateful for her dedication and the positive impact she has made on our school family. She will be greatly missed but fondly remembered by all.

Accompanying this tribute is a wonderful drawing created by our pupils and a short interview where children have captured some of her most memorable moments with us. Thank you, Mrs Fearnley, for your years of service and for helping shape the lives of so many children at St George's.



How long have you been teaching in St. Georges? 18 years

What's your favourite subject to teach? PE, Science

If you could say 1 thing to St. Georges what would it be? Keep being a friendly school and keep running!

Will you be sad to leave our school? Yes 'The children and subjects'

What was the first year you taught? A year 4 class

Florence and Ourania 6W



Which teachers are wearing these Christmas jumpers today? Some are obvious, other may make you think!