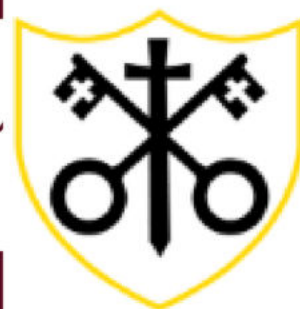




SS Peter & Paul Newsletter

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023 VOLUME 14



Dear Parents and Friends,

In our third week of Advent, we reflect on the candle of Joy. The air has been filled with much joy from children caroling and preparing for our upcoming carol service on Tuesday and children dressed in their nativity costumes ready to prepare for their parents and peers next week.

In this week's Gospel, the humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. He delivered the joyful news of God's arrival into this world in the person of Jesus, announcing that Jesus is the Light of the World. Often we do not recognise when Jesus stands among us, but be assured: Jesus is always with us, waiting to fill us with joy.

We welcome back Mrs Rough for our final week after a period of absence due to an ankle injury. She has been hugely missed and we look forward to seeing her soar into action on her crutches. I would like to thank Mrs Bimson, Mr Timlin and the amazing support staff for holding the fort until her return.

Sadly, at the end of this term, we say farewell to Mrs Brewin (Y1 teacher). We thank her for her years of service to SS Peter and Paul Primary School and as she embarks on a new path we wish her nothing but all luck and success for the future ahead.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for coming into the world to pay the price for our sins.

We do not always appreciate how high a cost you paid, and how your birth made good on promises that God the Father had made.

Thank you for your great love, for your sacrifice. Thank you that.

While we know hard times may come, your kingdom has come.

Help us to never grow tired of that truth, to discover it anew and

see how great it is that we can know it. Show us how to have joy

every day, how to rejoice in your love and provision time and time

again. We ask these things in your name,

Amen.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Atkinson-Aransiola
Headteacher



Important dates:

18th - KS1 Nativity

Performance to Parents 2pm

19th - KS1 Nativity

Performance to Parents

10am

19th- Y5 & Y6 Carol Service

in the Parish Church 6pm- All
parents welcome to attend

20th- Christmas Dinner and

Christmas Jumper Day

20th- LAST DAY for Nursery
pupils only

21st- End of term Mass-

10.15am - Parents welcome

21st- LAST DAY early finish at
1.30pm - No Wraparound

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

School Target- 96%

Total this week: 96.3%

GOLD AWARD

REC- St Joseph n 98.9%

SILVER AWARD

Y6- St Joan- 97.6%

BRONZE AWARD

Y2- St Clare 97.5%

Class Attendance:

Y3- St Marie - 97%

Yr4- St Maximillian - 96%

NUR- St Mary - 96%

Y4- St Francis - 95.2%

Y1- St Brigid - 94.2%

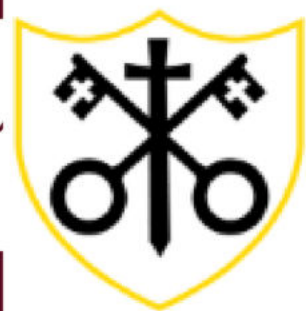
Y6- St Daniel - 93.5%

Y5- St Josephine - 95.6%



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Catholic Life of the school

Advent Week 3

Joy

Luke 2:10-11

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"



The Third Sunday of Advent

The third Sunday of Advent known as **Gaudete Sunday** will be on 17th December. Gaudete means to "Rejoice". We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near and rejoice that Christ is coming. Each candle in the Advent wreath has a significant meaning, but the third candle of Advent - JOY- has an unusual place. In most advent wreaths, it is the one candle that is a different colour than the others- a pink/rose colour. There is something unique, more spontaneous, and celebratory about the theme of the third week of Advent compared to the others. Joy is something we all desire, but we don't have to search around for it because it comes from within. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with joy! A joyful heart is a sign of God's spirit within us.

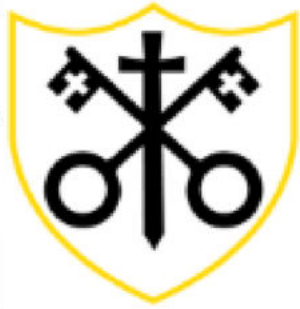
The shepherd's Candle

The third advent candle is called "the Shepherd's Candle," and the shepherds' section of the Christmas story is very much about joy. The shepherds are mentioned in Luke 2:8-20. In this scripture passage, they were watching sheep in their pastures when an angel appeared to them. As many people in the Bible reacted when angels showed up, the shepherds were frightened, so the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10-12).



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Catholic Life of the school

EYFS Nativity

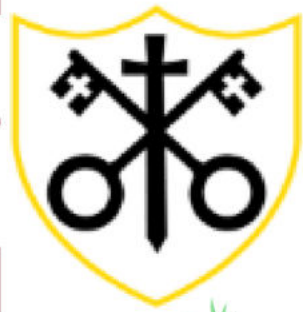
On Thursday, our youngest pupils in the school gave us the most incredible Nativity performance. Children in Nursery and Reception came together to perform the ***Sleepy Shepherd***, a story filled with humour, joy and the true meaning of Christmas, the gift of baby Jesus. The children sang so beautifully and were confident in their delivery of lines and actions- we have some budding actors and actresses in our midst-watch this space! Thank you to the many parents, family members and friends who turned out to watch but also helped your children learn their lines and the songs. I was quite surprised to see so many of you singing along too and a huge thank you to the EYFS team for preparing the children.





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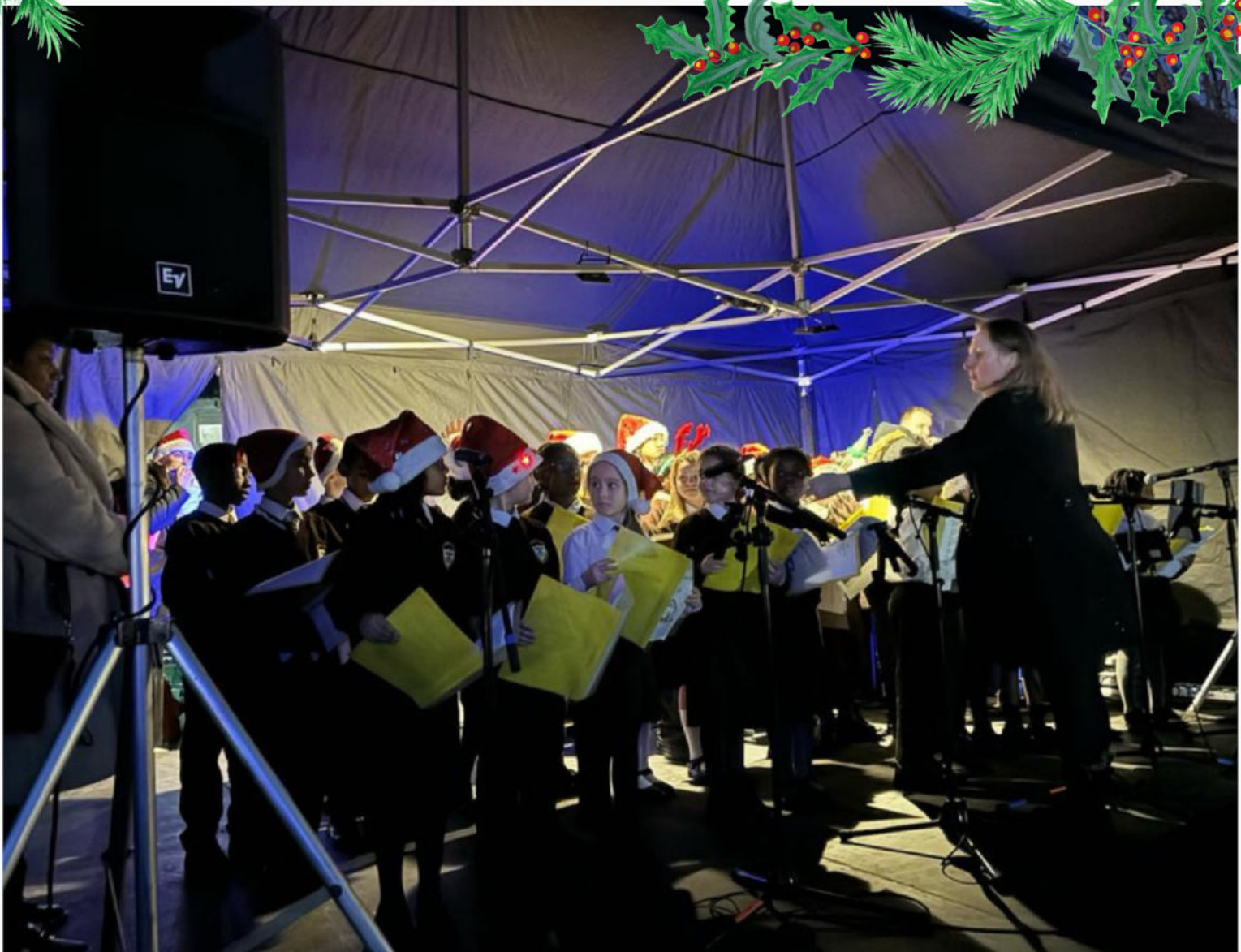
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Music Extravaganza!

Choir Perform at Mitcham Winter Weekend

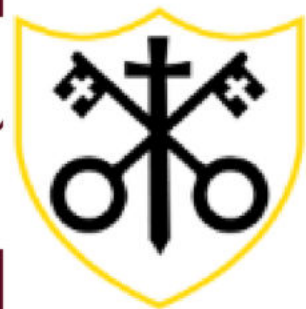
Choir took to the stage and brought the house down with their performance last Friday singing a medley of carols both traditional and contemporary. A huge thank you to Mrs Nassim and the children who gave up their lunchbreaks to rehearse and to the friends and family who came out to support us and those of you who accompanied the children to Mitcham Fair Green. It was great to see some familiar faces in the audience too- Councillor Agatha Akingyina and Councillor Joan Henry cheering us on!





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Reading For Pleasure

Winter Wonders

As the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, there's nothing quite like snuggling up with a good book to make winter feel a bit warmer. There's something magical about getting lost in a story while the wind howls and the snow falls outside, isn't there? And the best part is, it's a joy that can be shared with our children. Reading together as a family can be a memorable part of the colder months. If you're not sure where to start or what to put inside those Christmas stockings then take a look at some of our wonderful recommendations to get you started.

Clive Penguin by Huw Lewis Jones

Who's ever heard of a penguin that doesn't like the cold? Surrounded by the same old snow, day in day out and always bloomin' freezing, Clive Penguin wishes he was somewhere else. **SOMEONE** else. But with an epic discovery just around the corner, the solution might be easier than he thinks. Readers will hoot with laughter at the hilariously funny deadpan Clive Penguin.

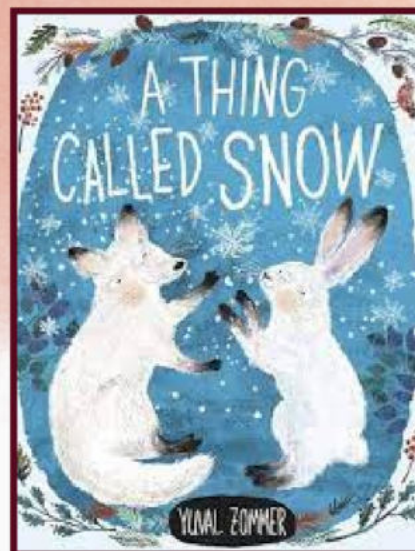


A Thing Called Snow by Yuzal Zommer

A gorgeous Christmas picture book that's destined to become a festive classic. Fox and Hare were born in spring, grew up in summer and were best friends by autumn. When winter comes, they can't wait to jump, leap and bounce in this thing called snow.

But what exactly is snow?

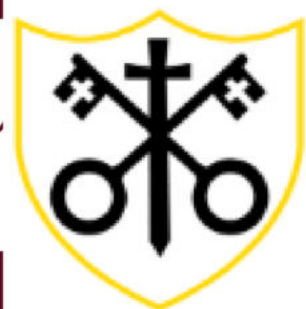
Join fox and hare on an Arctic journey as they ask all their friends to help them find out. This is a charming and classic-feeling Christmas picture book with a heartfelt message about seeing the wonder of the natural world.





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Achievement & Success

NED Champions

Congratulations to this week's NED Champions:

Antharya (St Joseph); Naomi (St Brigid); Gabriella (St Clare); Isabel (St Marie); Charlie (St Maximilian); Isla (St Francis); Moses and Oscar (St Josephine); Aisling (St Daniel); Julia (St Joan).

Music NED Champions are: Ella (KS1- St Clare) and Jethro (KS2).

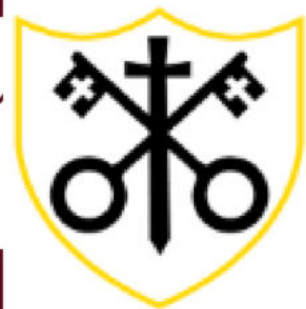
PE NED Champions are: Adam (St Josephine) and Arlala (St Clare)





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Consultation Announcements

Admissions

Following new guidance from the Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission, our Governing Body met early this week to approve the revised Admission Policy for 2025/26. There is only a small variation since the previous policy. We will be keeping our Supplementary form and **not** using the new *Certificate of Catholic Practice* which can be used to differentiate between applicants who have been baptised Catholics. We have chosen to take this stance due to the low pupil numbers, however we will review this in the future when we hope numbers will pick up again. There will be a consultation period of 6 calendar weeks beginning on **Monday 18th January** and will finish on or before **Wednesday 31st January 2024**.

Proposed School Uniform Consultation and Review

At the beginning of the year during the Headteacher talk, I addressed the possibility of uniform changes on the horizon.

Over the first few weeks in January, we will be conducting surveys for staff, parents and pupils as well as parent and pupil voice to ascertain the views of the current school uniform and if there were to be any changes, what aspects could be improved?

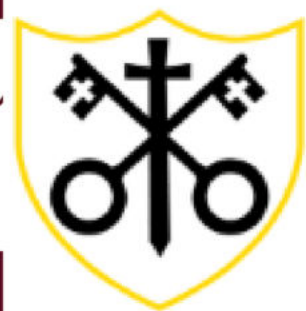
Once the results have been collated we will share these with you and any proposed plans. It is very important that we hear from you and you complete the survey when it is sent to you.

It will consist of no more than 5-10 questions and we welcome your feedback and support.



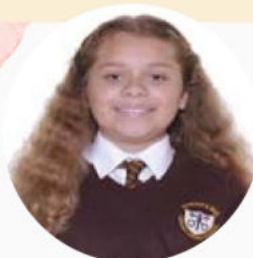
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School Council

Meet our School Council members. They will be responsible for representing pupil voice across the school and working together with staff to make our school a wonderful place. School Council meetings will take place every two weeks, where the school councillors will investigate issues raised by their classmates. The councillors then feed back to their classmates about what was discussed at the meeting and begin to make things happen!



School Council Aim:

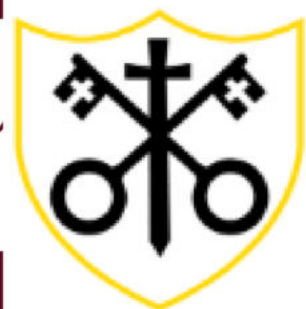
The School Council wants to empower all children at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School. Empowerment is not only about academic success; it also means having your views listened to, respected and acted upon.

- 1) To give children a 'voice' and to make sure any ideas or concerns are listened to and acted upon.
- 2) To give pupils the opportunity to work alongside other members of the school community.
- 3) To allow children to experience democracy at first hand and learn the importance of being active citizens.



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READING **Coffee Morning** MEASURE

Thursday 21st December

Dear Parents,

We're excited to kick start our Christmas holidays with a mince pie and coffee morning for parents on last day of term.

No need to book, please join us and share in the festivities. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please join us in the spare Year 5 classroom at 9:00 am

