

### **St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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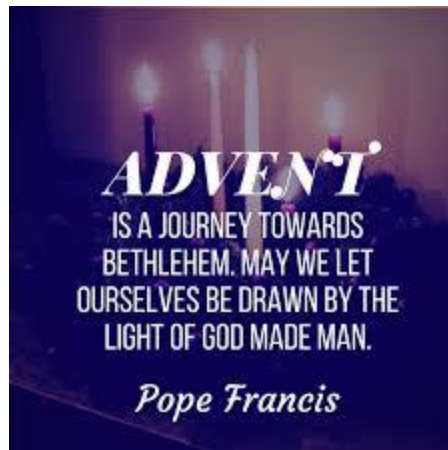
Headteacher: Samantha Griffiths

Assistant Headteacher: Helen Lambie

School Business Manager: Nicola Pryce

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2024



### **What is Advent?**

Advent is a very special time for Catholics and Christians all over the world. It's the four weeks before Christmas when we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. The word "Advent" means "coming," and during this time, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus.

Here's what Advent is all about:

#### **1. A Time of Waiting and Preparation**

Advent is like waiting for a very special guest! Just as we might clean our house and decorate for visitors, we prepare our hearts for Jesus. We do this by praying, being kind to others, and thinking about how we can be more like Him.

#### **2. The Advent Wreath**

In church and at home, you might see an Advent wreath. It has four candles: three purple and one pink.

- **Each candle represents a week of Advent.**
- The purple candles remind us to pray and reflect, while the pink candle is for joy because Christmas is so close!
- Lighting one candle each week helps us count down the days until Christmas.

### **3. Thinking About Jesus' Birth**

During Advent, we remember how the world waited for Jesus a long time ago. God promised to send a Savior, and when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, that promise was fulfilled.

### **4. Looking Forward to His Return**

Advent isn't just about the past; it's also about the future. We believe that Jesus will come again, so Advent is a time to think about being ready for Him when that happens.

### **5. Acts of Love and Kindness**

To get ready for Jesus, we can do special things to show love to others, like helping people in need, saying kind words, and sharing what we have. These acts of love make Jesus happy and help us prepare for His coming.

Advent is a beautiful time of hope, joy, and love. It reminds us to slow down, reflect, and get excited for the wonderful gift of Jesus at Christmas!

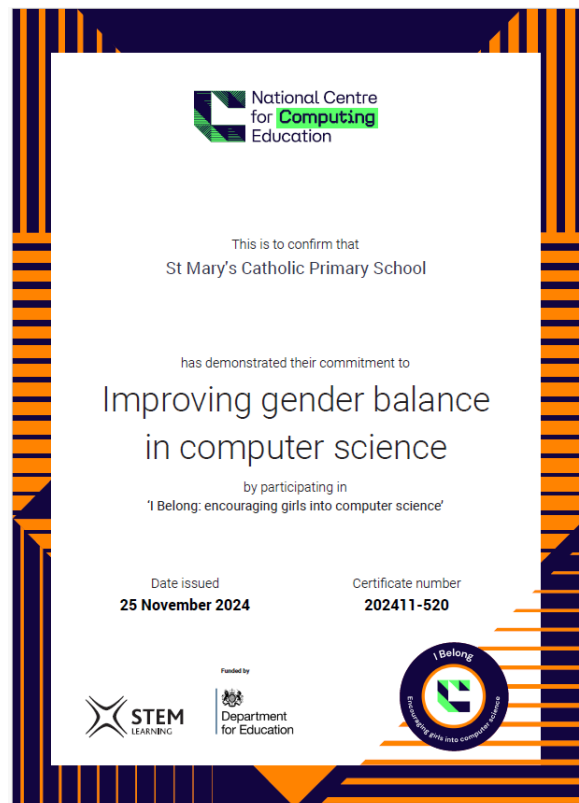


### **I Belong: encouraging girls into computer science**

We are excited to share that our school has been recognized with a prestigious award for our work in **Computer Science**, one of the fastest-growing subjects in STEM. This achievement highlights the fantastic efforts of both our students and staff to foster a love for technology and innovation.

While Computer Science is becoming increasingly popular, it's important to note that girls are still outnumbered by boys in this field. The gender gap in computing often begins at a young age, influenced by stereotypes and societal expectations. At our school, we are committed to breaking down these barriers and showing all our students—especially girls—that they belong in the world of Computer Science.

This award is not just a celebration of our success in the classroom, but also a step forward in encouraging more diversity and inclusivity in STEM. By fostering an environment where everyone feels they can succeed, we are helping to create a future where all students can pursue their passions, regardless of gender.



## Christmas Performances

The excitement is building for our upcoming Christmas presentations! The children have been working so hard, rehearsing their lines, songs, and dances with great enthusiasm. These events are always a highlight of the year, giving us all a chance to celebrate the festive season and showcase the children's amazing talents. To help everything run smoothly, some children have received a letter outlining their costume requirements. We've tried to keep these as simple and cost-effective as possible, as we believe the joy of these costumes. If you have any concerns or difficulty getting what's needed, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. **Children in years 3,4 and 5 are to wear dark trousers and a white top with silver tinsel around their necks please.** We'd also love to see as many of you as possible at the Christmas presentations! Your support means so much to the children and helps make these events extra special.





### Parents' Open Afternoon.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for Parents' Afternoon! It was fantastic to see so many of you taking the time to meet with us and learn more about your child's progress and achievements. Your involvement plays a vital role in supporting your child's education, and we truly value the opportunity

to work together to help them succeed. We hope you found the discussions helpful and left feeling proud of all they've accomplished so far. As always, if you have any questions or need further support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



### PODS Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the tea and mince pie meeting with Parents Opening Doors (PODS). It was wonderful to see so

many of you engaging with this independent Telford and Wrekin-based charity, which supports parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with disabilities or additional needs. PODS provides opportunities for your voice to be heard and works to help 'Make A Difference' by connecting with service providers across all areas. They also offer valuable information and support

whenever you need it, partnering with organizations such as Sure Start, the Parent Partnership Service (now IASS), the DCD Group, and more. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for their newsletter, please contact Mrs. Lambie, who will be happy to help.

### The Christmas Rehearsals at St. Mary's

**At St. Mary's, the halls are,  
With festive cheer and children's drive.  
Voices echo, songs take flight,  
Practicing lines deep into the night.**

**Mr. Freeman smiles, standing tall,  
Helping with maths, and now with it all!  
He claps along as the children sing,  
Their voices full of Christmas zing.**

**Mrs. Lambie steps in with care,  
Ensuring each child feels prepared.  
From costumes to props, she's always on cue,  
Her warm encouragement shining through.**

**Mrs. Rushton with her steady grace,  
Guides the children to find their place.  
Whether it's shepherds or angels in line,  
She ensures the performance will shine.**

**The children rehearse with sparkling eyes,  
Dreaming of stars in December skies.  
From nativity scenes to joyful cheer,  
The magic of Christmas grows ever near.**

## Ofsted

I'm delighted to let you know that our recent OFSTED inspection has been completed, and the report is now with for review. This step is essential to ensure the report is accurate and fair.

Once the final checks are done, we'll share it with you as soon as possible. While we wait, I want to take a moment to thank our incredible staff for their hard work during the inspection. Their dedication truly shone through, and the children's progress—in both their learning and personal development—was clear for all to see. We're confident the report will reflect the positive atmosphere and achievements within our school.



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## Strategic Role

Some time ago and as part of our commitment to ensuring the effectiveness of our governing body, we communicated that we are particularly keen to bring on board someone with skills and experience in areas such as management, health and safety, human resources, finance, or



education. We're delighted to share that a parent has volunteered and brings valuable expertise in finance and securing value for money in business—a potential fantastic addition to our team. If you're interested in this important role too and feel you have relevant skills or experience and the time to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the school office by **Monday** to express your interest or to learn more about what the role entails.

## Dates for your diary

10.12.24	KS1 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	We will be delighted to invite you to our annual Christmas performances! The children will have worked hard to prepare a festive show filled with music, drama, and cheer. We can't wait to share the magic of the season with you!
12.12.24	KS2 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	
17.12.24	Christmas dinner	
19.12.24	Children break-up for Christmas	
07.01.25	Children return to school	

