



# ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Strive to succeed in the presence of God*

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

If you came to the Christmas Bazaar last Saturday, you will be aware of the huge effort so many parents made to create a wonderful atmosphere in school. There was a vast array of stalls and a staggering amount of money raised - £11,500!! In addition, some parents have arranged match funding with their work place and we are expecting in the region of an additional £2,500 to add to the profit. A big thank you to everyone involved!

I wonder have any of you been watching "Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones" on Channel 4? I watched it last night and was astonished at the impact smartphones have had on children's brains, sleep patterns and anxiety. If you haven't seen it, it's worth watching (and then avoid giving your child a smart phone until they are about 14).

**Nativity Week!** – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have all celebrated Christmas in a variety of entertaining nativity productions for their parents. It has been a wonderful opportunity to hear the Christmas story (whilst simultaneously being entertained by the children's acting, singing and dancing!) A big thank you to all the staff for their hard work in putting these together.



**Year 1** told the story of 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed it All!' to the school on Monday and their families on Tuesday. The Angel who was always late for everything, finally made it to Jesus' birth!

**Reception** children performed 'Simply the Nativity' to the school on Tuesday and their families on Wednesday. The hall was packed with proud family members all keen to see their little ones on stage for the first time. Very well done to them all.



**Year 2's** production of 'The Fleece Force' had an over zealous trainee Police Officer who was so busy keeping people out of Bethlehem, she nearly stopped everyone from reaching Jesus' birth in a stable!



**Carol Service led by Years 3&4** – On Monday morning, the children from Years 3 & 4 sang their Carol Service for the school. We were all blown away by the beautiful singing. Then later that evening, in St Monica's Church they repeated the performance for their families. It was a wonderful occasion and celebration of music and Christmas. A big thank you to Mr Charles-Nelson and all the staff from Years 3 & 4 for preparing the children – video and photos to follow next week.

**Reconciliation** – During Advent, Catholics take the time to prepare for Christmas by reflecting on their behaviour and going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you to our Parish Priest Fr Mehall, his assistant Fr David and two visiting priests Canon Robert Plourde and Fr Maciej Michalek who came to school on Thursday to hear the confessions of Class 5Y and Year 4. Year 6 and Class 5G will have their opportunity next week.

## Diary Dates

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm – Winter Social at the Dog and Duck for parents – live music – see link below to book

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Panto performance in school – thank you to The Friends for paying for this special treat!

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm – Carols around the tree – choir and strings group will be performing in the main hall – all welcome.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm – Carol Service led by Years 5 & 6 at St Monica's Church - parents invited – children please arrive in church in full school uniform for 6.45pm and wait with parents until called up to the altar.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas dinner day served in school

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas party day – children may wear their own clothes to school and bring in a snack for eating

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 1pm – School closes for the Christmas holiday

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – School opens for the new term

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Happy Bag Collection – scroll down for more information, if you're doing a clear out over the holidays.

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste

Headteacher

**The Friends' Parents Social** – If you would like to attend the Parents' Winter Social at the Dog & Duck on Saturday night, click the link

<https://app.goodhub.com/adultschristmassocial24>

If you're doing any clearing out over the Christmas holidays, please keep hold of things that could go in the Happy Bag Collection on 31<sup>st</sup> January!

## We Are Fundraising For Your Local School!



Hey, I'm Hoppy

Our Brand Mascot

Hi Pupils & Parents, Your school is participating in our Happy School Bag Fundraising Scheme!

Through your kind donations of unwanted & pre-loved clothing to your school, we will pay the school 40p per KG collected!

If your school has scheduled more than one collection in advance, the rate becomes 45p per KG.

Meaning the more you bring the more your school raises for investments!

## What we collect

**We accept:**

- ✓ Adults and children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes
- ✓ Handbags, belts, hats, jewellery
- ✓ Toiletries, perfumes,
- ✓ Souvenirs, unwanted gifts

Please ensure that all items placed in the bags are in good REUSABLE condition. Please ensure that the bags remain dry on rainy days. Thankyou

If unsure about anything please call us on 0170 868 5071

**We do not accept:**

- ✗ Uniforms, underclothing
- ✗ Bric-a-brac, toys, DVD'S, CD's
- ✗ Rugs, blankets, curtains, books
- ✗ Household linen, pillows, duvets
- ✗ DIRTY, DAMAGED, or WET clothes

(Please note that the current price may change based on factors outside of the business's control, such as sanctions and conflicts which may affect global trade and the economy)




0170 868 5071

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YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

# **DOG AND DUCK SANTA GROTTO**

**SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER**

12:00 P.M - 15:00 P,M

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT, FREE ENTRY  
DONATIONS ACCEPTED AND WILL BE DONATED  
TO NORTH LONDON HOSPICE

RECEIVE A PRESENT FROM SANTA AND HIS ELF.

FESTIVE DRINKS AND COMPLEMENTARY  
FOOD AVAILABLE.

SANTA IS ACCEPTING LETTERS TO BE SENT  
TO THE PUB BEFORE FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER  
SO SANTA KNOWS WHAT HAS BEEN ASKED  
FOR!!!!

DOG AND DUCK N21 3LH

