



1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Janet Daby

Today, Janet Daby MP, visited the school. She led a KS2 assembly, where she encouraged the children to be ambitious, to work hard and to not be put off by obstacles in their way! The children were given the opportunity to ask her lots of questions about her life and role as MP. The questions were very tough, it felt very much like Question Time! Janet then met with the School Council and had a tour of the school. Thank you to Janet for giving up her time to come and meet with the children.

Community Conversation

Next Wednesday at 3:30pm we will be hosting our very first Community Conversation following on from the introductory meeting last term. This is an initiative that aims to involve parents and the whole school in tackling racial inequality in our schools, neighbourhoods and wider community. It involves a series of guided conversations about race, which were piloted in five Lewisham schools over the last year. These conversations will occur at least once a term and will be facilitated with support from the national charity Citizens UK.

Scholastic Book Fair

A message from Mrs Foster-Lewis, our Reading lead:

Thank you so much if you made it to our book fair. It was so lovely to see so many parents and children having a look and buying books. We were initially given a 25% rewards commission rate from Scholastic book company but because of the amazing turnout from the wonderful children and parents and sales of books, we have now been given a huge 50% rewards commission! You helped to raise a whopping £520 for us to spend on books for the classes and school library. Thank you so much for your support!

A special thank you to Mrs Bishop, Mrs Lucas, Ms Murphy, Mrs Enskatt, Ms Jones, Mrs Marchant, Chris and Jason for all their help. Another special thank you to Violet, Minika and Shaudae, three of our school Reading Leaders, who gave their time to help out too!

Book fair 'Design a new book cover' competition

Congratulations to Lilia (year 3), Aria-Rey (year 1), Tshai (year 4), Lola (year 3) and Owen (year 5) winners of the competition. They each won a £5 book voucher to spend at the fair. Well done!

December

- 3rd: Christmas Concert - OLOL
- 5th: St Alphonsa (Yr6) Trip to National Portrait Gallery
- 5th: [EYs Nativity](#) – 2pm
- 6th: [EYs Nativity](#) – 10am
- 6th: Flu Vaccine
- 6th: Community Conversation 3:30pm
- 7th: Year 5 trip to Royal Observatory
- 7th: Cake Sale
- 12th: [KS1 Nativity](#) – 2pm
- 13th: [KS1 Nativity](#) – 2pm
- 13th: Yr 4 & 5 - Jack and the Beanstalk – Catford Broadway Panto
- 13th: Upper KS2 Carol Concert 6/7pm tbc
- 14th: Yr 3 - Jack and the Beanstalk – Catford Broadway Panto
- 15th: Christmas Jumper Day and Lunch
- 15th: Early Years & KS1 Panto (In School)
- 18th: [Lower KS2 Nativity](#) – 2pm
- 19th: [Lower KS2 Nativity](#) – 2pm
- 19th: Yr 6 - Jack and the Beanstalk – Catford Broadway Panto
- 20th: Whole School Mass – 9:30am
- 21st December – 5th January: Christmas Holidays



Cake Sale for Gaza

Next Thursday there will be a cake sale to raise money for the charity [MAP, Medical Aid for Palestinians](#). Our Lady of Lourdes church have already raised funds to help and the school is following suit.

Since the beginning of this latest conflict, nearly 1.7 million people have had to leave their homes in Gaza. That's over half of the population. Over 200,000 housing units have been damaged or destroyed, roughly 45% of all homes in Gaza. More than 15,000 people have been killed, 70% of which are women and children. Over 34,000 children have been injured and more than 6000 people are missing in Gaza. Hospitals, schools, mosques and churches have been destroyed.

The humanitarian need is great, so the Mini Vinnies are helping several parents to run a cake sale to raise funds for MAP.

So, next Thursday, please help where you can. Bring in cakes to sell and leave them by the gate in the morning and / or a £1 to buy cakes after school.



*“War is defeat. Every war is a defeat.
Let us pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.”
Pope Francis*

Mini Vinnies Advent Appeal:

We also had an assembly by the Mini Vinnies. The Mini Vinnies are made up of children from Years 5 and 6. The children prepared it all themselves. They have created an Advent calendar of good deeds, where all the children are encouraged to do something positive every day of advent.

Mini Vinnies are the junior section of the Catholic organisation of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which exists to help those in need. They want to help people in need during the cold winter months and have come up with the idea of a back to front advent calendar.



They also have put out an Advent plea. They are asking each class to create their own Advent Calendar for a good cause. Rather than opening a calendar door each day and removing the gift, they are requesting that a gift is donated instead. Each class will have a box to collect their donations. The children will collect all the items at the end of term and take them to the Lewisham Donation Hub.

The kinds of things that can be donated include unopened body moisturiser (especially emollient 50), adult and baby shampoo, hair conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes (child and adults), perfume and after shave, deodorant (men's and women's), mouthwash, shaving foam, razors, talcum powder. Tinned tomatoes, noodles, UHT milk, pasta, rice, tinned soups, chick peas, cereal, tuna and mackerel (tins), couscous, pasta sauce, Indian sauce, lentils, coconut milk, stock cubes, crisps and treats, orange squash (and similar), flour, breakfast bars, coffee, tea.

LOLO Chorus News

The Chorus' Christmas Concert this year will be on Sunday 3rd December at 4pm in the church. As well as a collection of traditional Christmas carols, the concert will feature some less traditional seasonal songs and we are delighted that children from St Winifred's will also be performing during the concert. Please put this in your diary now.

Nativities



Early Years, KS1 and Lower KS2 will have their nativity in school in the school hall. To attend these performances, you will need to click on the links above in the calendar or in the attachment for each phase group (underlined). We are offering two tickets per child. However, if you were to want more, we will put you on a waiting list and issue additional spaces nearer the time if available. You will not receive a physical ticket.

Upper Key Stage 2, Years 5 & 6, will lead us in a Carol Concert in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church in the evening. As it is being held in the church in the evening, we hope that the whole family will be able to attend and there is no need to book.

[Early Years](#): If you have requested a ticket on the google form I can confirm that all of these tickets have been allocated. If you have not booked yet and would like to come, we only have spaces now at the Wednesday, 10am performance. For these spaces, please contact the office.

We will be fundraising for the school at the performances, we will have buckets and QR codes to take donations. We will gratefully receive anything you are able to spare.

St Winifred's in the Football Final!

A message from Mr Dickerson, our PE lead:

Last Wednesday, on a bitterly cold November night St Winifred's Girls' Football Team were eager to etch their names in history. They had qualified for the finals of the St Dunstan's girls football competition. Yet they knew their task was far from complete. Four of the best girls' football teams in Lewisham had come to win.

In their first game St Wins went in with a fabulous attitude, scoring an early goal. Their opponents stuck back almost immediately but they did not let this get them down as they went on to win 4-2. In their second game the girls were stopped by an incredible performance from the opposition keeper as they narrowly lost 5-2. I was concerned. This was the first time this team had ever tasted defeat. Would their heads drop?



Going into the final round robin game, each team was on four points, this meant that the winners of the next game would meet in the finals. Everything was on the line. This didn't phase them, they ruthlessly and efficiently dispatched their opponents 4-0 to book their place in the finals.

Unfortunately, this was one game too far for our team. They went 1-0 up early on before being pegged back just before halftime. Then conceded a second shortly after the whistle blew to start the second half, the death blow was a very unfortunate goal which took an eternity to creep in the goal.

Disappointed, the girls showed great sportsmanship and class, congratulating their opponents. Valentina the captain, hoisted the 2nd place trophy high in the air. Knowing full well that this was the beginning of the journey, not the end. Also, Raffaella was awarded the 'Magic Moment' award for her outstanding performance in the tournament.

The captain, Valentina, had this to say:

"We tried our hardest and our best to bring you back the trophy. We did very well, playing some great football along the way. We're all very proud and had so much fun doing it! Unfortunately, we didn't manage to finish in 1st place however, you can't learn without losing."

Finally, I would like to add, that I am extremely proud of this team. They were all fantastic and left everything out on the pitch. I couldn't have asked for any more.

Thank you also to Mr Dickerson and Ms Jones, who supported and prepared the girls for the tournament.

Reception 2024:

If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2024 (born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020) or know someone who does, I hope that St Winifred's is your first choice! We will be hosting a series of open days until the application deadline – 15th January 2024. If you would like to book a place on one of the open days, please contact the school office.

During the School Day		After School
9:15am – 10am	2pm – 2:45pm	4pm
Tuesday 9th January	Thursday 7th December	Wednesday 13th December

[Applications for Reception Class](#) places for September 2024 can now be made on line.

Admissions Policy 2025/26 Consultation

You should have received today the proposed Admissions Policy for September 2025. The policy has been written following the Diocesan model policy. Consultation will last until the 31st January. Please contact us if you have any comments regarding the proposal.

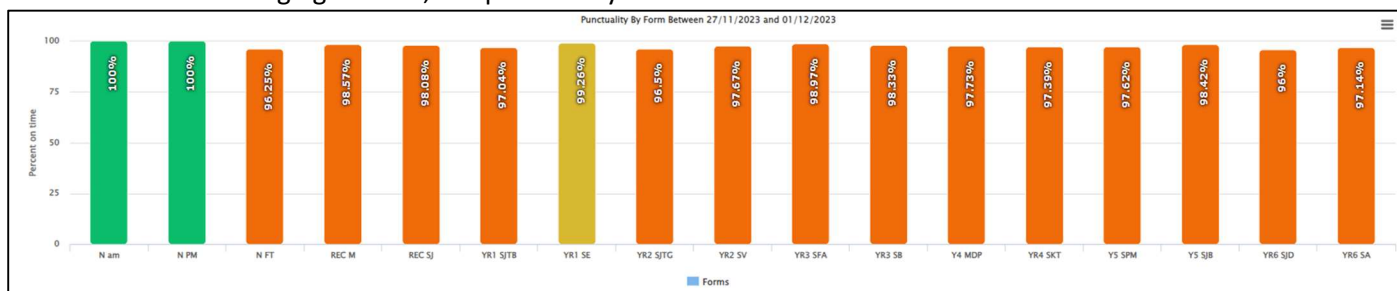
Wednesday Word

Please see the [link](#) to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend.

Punctuality and Attendance

School attendance this year so far: 95.6% (DfE expects 95%)

The majority of school is above 97% (apart from a few)!!!! I do try and wait for those late arrivals that appear along the road when I am ringing the bell, but punctuality needs to be better than this.



This week's winners are Nursery a.m. and p.m. with 100%, followed by St Elizabeth on 99%! Everyone else is above 96%! Well done.

School Ping

Thank you to everyone who has started using this app, 77% of parents have downloaded the app. If you haven't yet, you should have received an email regarding School Ping. SchoolPing is a free app which sends instant messages straight to your smartphone, wherever you are. If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can also receive messages via email or by logging in to your account on the web. Whether you're at work, at home or on the go, all you need is an internet connection to stay up to date with all of the school's news. Moving forward, all communication from the school will be via this app. From feedback, we could see that not all parents were receiving our emails and the current ScholarPack App does not have the same functionality. Please make sure the school has your current email address.



Social Media:

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Claire Gillespie