



Newsletter

December 2025

Dear St Edward's Family,

We are sure you will love this wonderful Christmas edition of our newsletter, which showcases some of our events during the period of Advent.

It was lovely to see our children in Early Years and Key Stage One perform their Nativity play, with beautiful songs and very proud parents. Well done to all the children and a huge thank you to staff who worked tirelessly over a number of weeks to prepare for this year's Nativity play. Our pupils in Key Stage 2 led a magnificent Carol Concert in Our Lady of Compassion Church. The service was a traditional concert, whereby the congregation were actively involved in singing all the traditional Christmas hymns. So a big thank to all of our staff for this event as well.

In addition, we have held some wonderful Christmas Discos and enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch, in the company of Father Christmas himself and his elves. Children and staff also participated in Christmas Jumper day. There were also Class Parties and a beautiful Christmas Mass, so we are well prepared to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus. Children took part in the Christmas Card project and created some beautiful designs. Father Britto hosted an interfaith meeting at school during the half term break with many people from the local community who came along. This was a wonderful opportunity to engage with people from different faiths and discuss how we can work together with our children and families.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Underwood and our staff for all their hard work and support this term and to our PTA who have organised some fantastic events as well as raising money for our school. We have seen a real sense of unity and support within our school community and that is what makes our school a real success and what we do for our children.

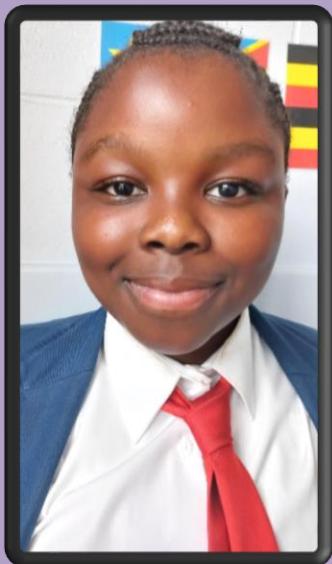
Every day, we have seen the Christmas spirit in action and are reminded of the real reason for the season. It is important to remember that Christmas can be great for so many but also challenging for some as well. Therefore, we ask God to help us remember all of those less fortunate than ourselves. We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and blessings for the New Year ahead. We look forward to welcoming our children back to school for the start of the spring term on Monday the 5th of January 2026.

Congratulations to our Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies for 2025/2026

This half term our head boy, head girl and their deputies were chosen from amongst our brilliant team of prefects. We held a special assembly with the whole school and families of the children chosen. Parents and family members were informed in advance but had to ensure that this was top secret as the children did not know until their names were announced and they were shocked and surprised when they saw their families come into the hall. We know that they will do a fantastic job fulfilling their roles as true leaders of the school and work with their peers.



Head Boy



Head Girl

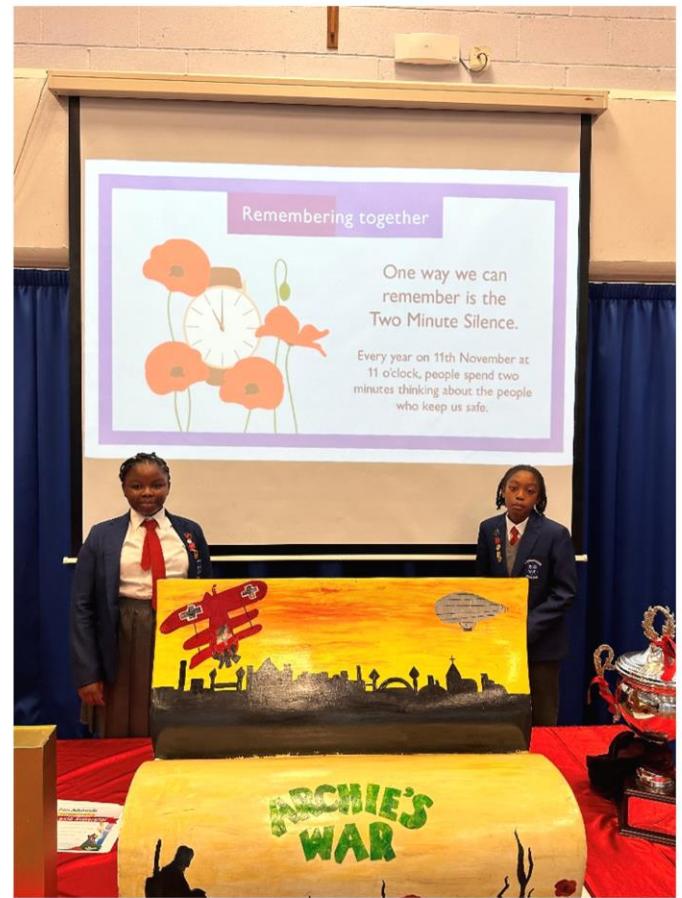


Deputy Head Boy



Deputy Head Girl





Remembrance Day

Our Pupil Parliament went to Central Park for a remembrance service with Mr Underwood, Mr Morgan and Ms Williams. Joined by our other trust schools they laid a wreath and observed a 2 minute silence in remembrance of those who fought in the world wars. Mrs Casely led an assembly in school with all the children reminding them of why we celebrate the 11th of November every year. Throughout the week poppies and other items were sold in the school playground and we raised an amazing £300 which will go to the Royal British Legion helping veterans in need. Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and contributed to this very worthy cause.

Brentwood Diocese Interfaith Meeting

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of the Second Vatican Council 'Nostra Aetate' a large number of people came together for a talk entitled "God of All People" at our school during the October half term break. This was an interfaith event celebrating dialogue, understanding and unity among faith communities. These special gathering bring people of different faiths together and asks the Catholic Church how they view people of other faiths.

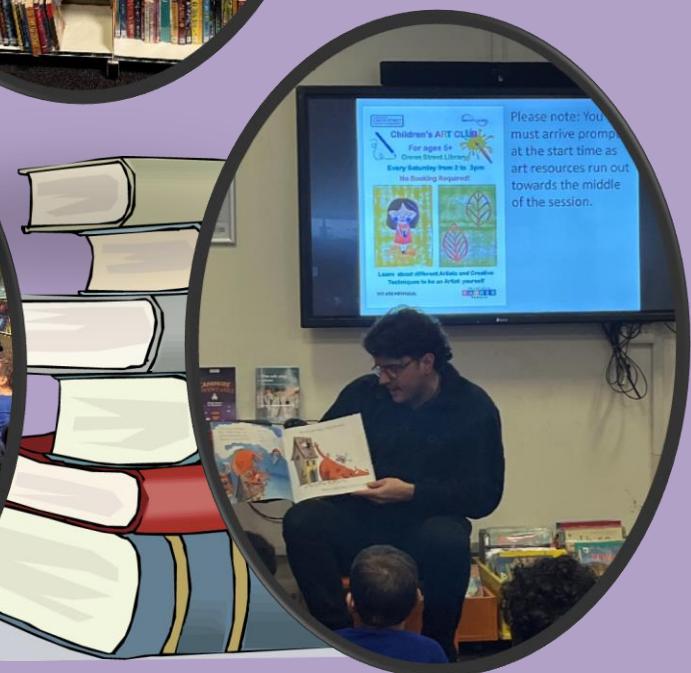


'Following Christ we reach our goals'

Bonfire Night themed lunch

In conjunction with the Pupil Parliament, Olive Dining prepared a Bonfire Night themed lunch. There were delicious food items including Banger Hot Dogs, Campfire Quesadilla Pizza slices, Sparkler Spiced Sweetcorn and Glow Cookies. The hall was beautifully decorated and the children were very excited about their special lunch which they enjoyed with their friends.





Library Visits

During this term, classes have been visiting Green Street library where the children have had opportunities to explore a wide range of books, learn how a library works, and discover the joy of reading. The visits have helped the children spark their curiosity and encouraged them to become more independent readers. During the visits, the children were able to borrow books using their library cards and it also showed them how libraries provide a quiet, welcoming space to study, explore new ideas and connect with the community.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge has started and will run from the 1st December to the 28th February. Children need to read 4 books to complete the challenge.



Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

THE READING AGENCY Winter Mini Challenge

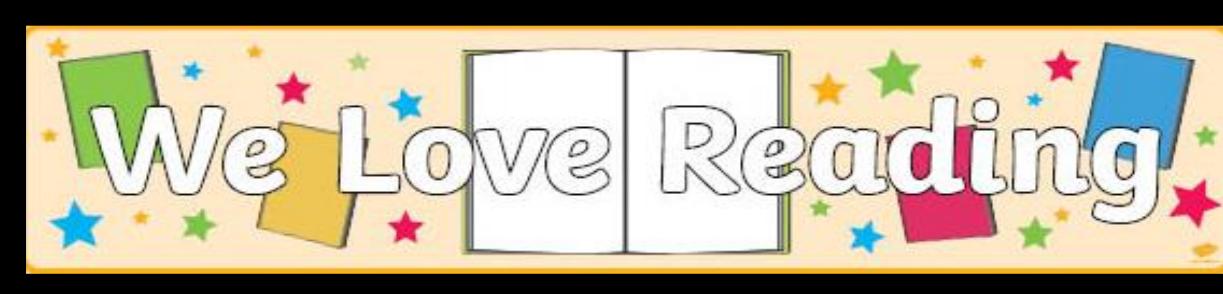
Newham London

Winter Story Sprouts

Winter Mini Challenge
1 December 2025 - 28 February 2026

The Winter Mini Challenge is here again in your local library, for children of all ages. Become a champion and collect rewards for your reading.

WE ARE NEWHAM.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



Christmas Card Project

This year again we have had an overwhelming amount of orders for personalised Christmas cards and gifts. Thank you to all the parents that supported the children at home with their designs and for all those that were able to purchase cards and gifts. We raised an amazing £320 for the school!

EYFS & KS1 Nativity

On Monday the 2nd of December children in EYFS and KS1 performed their Nativity play which this year was called Angel Express. The children sang beautifully and looked amazing in their costumes. A big thank to all the staff who supported the children in learning their lines and all the song words. What a wonderful show!





KS2 Carol Concert

On Friday the 12th of December, KS2 children performed their Carol Concert at Our Lady of Compassion church with parents/carers who came along to watch their children. Well done to all the children who retold the story of the birth of Jesus through a tableau, traditional hymns and specific scripture readings. A big thank you to all the staff who supported the children in getting ready for their performance.



Children's Christmas Lunch



'Following Christ we reach our goals'

Santa's Grotto

Father Christmas came to visit St Edward's again this year and all the children had the opportunity to have their photo taken with him and even received a small gift. Thank you to Santa's little helpers – our amazing Friends of St Teddies.



Christmas Card Project & Choir

Children in our Pupil Parliament made cards for each department at St Barts to spread some Christmas cheer amongst the patients and staff there. Our choir also performed at Newham General Hospital. The doctors, nurses and patients were delighted to meet the children and hear them sing.





Christmas Disco

The celebrations continued with the PTA disco where children and parents boogied the night away. Everyone looked amazing in their party outfits and enjoyed the delicious food that was on offer.



'Following Christ we reach our goals'



Rock Steady Extravaganza

Children in our Rock Steady groups put on a melodious performance for their peers and parents. All their hard work over the term paid off as they sang and played various instruments. A super show which highlighted what budding stars we have amongst our school community.



Christmas Party



A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for their generosity in donating money for charitable causes such as the sale of Santa hats whose proceeds went to Mary's Meals. The sale of poppies which will support war veterans and their families. There were also other projects like the Christmas Card project and the sale of Christmas photos and the money raised from these events will go towards much needed resources for our school.

The Importance of Giving: Jesus taught that it is more blessed to give than to receive. This principle highlights the value of generosity and selflessness in acts of charity.

Jesus' teachings on charity emphasise the significance of love, humility, and selfless giving. He calls His followers to serve others, particularly the needy, as a reflection of their love for Him. Through these teachings, Jesus illustrates that charity is not merely an act of kindness but a fundamental expression of faith and devotion.

mary's meals | a simple solution to world hunger



Gospel according to Luke - 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.

Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January – Christmas Break

Monday 5th January – ALL children return to school

Tuesday 6th January – Whole school Mass in church

Friday 16th January – Heather Class assembly

Friday 23rd January – Fern Class assembly

Friday 23rd January – Coffee Morning

Friday 30th January – Thistle Class assembly

Monday 2nd February – Caritas Week

Monday 9th February – Aspirations Week

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February – HALF TERM WEEK

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 6th March – Ivy Class assembly

Monday 9th March – Spring Assessment Week

Friday 13th March – PTA Mother's Day event

Friday 13th March – EYFS & KS1 Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 18th March – Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 20th March – KS2 Stations of the Cross

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th March – Spring Parent Consultation Meetings

Friday 27th March –Easter Raffle

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April – Easter Break

Monday 13th April – ALL children return for the start of the Summer term,

PLEASE NOTE – these dates may be subject to change