

FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP

Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation

December 2022

A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers

We hope you enjoy reading the last Faith, Family, Fellowship edition of 2022. It has been wonderful to watch so many festive productions and worship together at each of our campuses' Christmas Services.

As we come to the end of another busy term we would like to give thanks to all our staff for the commitment and dedication they have given to their roles in serving our federation community. We know this term has been challenging for families due to the cost of living and the many ongoing health issues that have impacted people's welfare. As always, we have supported our pupils with compassion and care so that they are able to flourish and grow in a safe learning environment. We pray that everyone enjoys the Christmas break and is able to spend quality time with their loved ones.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year on Tuesday 3rd January 2023!

With very best wishes,

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

A prayer from Rev. Dominic Hubbuck

Advent is a time of preparation.

We count down the days, we ready our homes and we change things.

We change our decorations, we change our mood, we change our focus – often to family and friends and fun.

As you prepare for Christmas –

What will your focus be on?

What do you want your Christmas break be like?

What changes do you want to make?

In church our Advent candles help us prepare – for us they represent Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Jesus.

Why not consider what you are hoping for in the year to come, why not practice for a few minutes every day creating a moment of peace, why not do something that brings someone else a moment of joy, why not consider who you can tell how much you love and appreciate them. The love of Jesus is in all of these things.

Lord God,

Send your spirit of HOPE into our lives.

Bring us PEACE – in our world and in our hearts.

Spread JOY in our communities.

Help us to share LOVE for each other.

And may JESUS be seen in everything we do this Christmas. Amen

Have a good Christmas, and see you in the New Year

EasyFundraising

Please remember to use easyfundraising when doing your online shopping over the festive period! Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/koinoniafederation/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2

Christmas Performances

We had 13 primary productions across our campuses as well as our Church services – it was a joy to watch them all!

Christ Church Christmas Service

We had a great time exploring the values of a great king in our Christmas service at church. We enjoyed singing songs, sharing poems, Bible readings and prayers. It was lovely that so many of our parents and carers came to celebrate with us.



St Mary Magdalene, Woolwich

The KS1 had a fantastic time performing their show, 'Prickly Hay' not once but three times. First, they did a marvellous performance for the rest of the school, then they did 2 performances for their parents. The acting was superb and the singing was magnificent. The audience was also treated to actions during all the songs and the show ended with a Spanish song sung by all of the cast from Year 1 and Year 2. The show was extremely energetic and so good Year 5 came to see it twice!!! It's amazing that these very young children not only knew their parts but learned all nine songs by heart. The Year 5 said it was the best performance they had seen this year. Parents were very proud and said they were so surprised when they saw their child knew all the words of the song and that they were so confident with their singing and dancing. It was a fantastic show and will be talked about for months.



Years 5 & 6 had a lovely time exploring the Christmas story and its values in our Carols by Candlelight production. We enjoyed singing songs, playing a festive piece on the recorders and sharing Bible readings. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate this event with so many parents and carers.

Mrs Kristensen

St Mary Magdalene, Peninsula

The children in EYFS performed the play Nursery Rhymes Nativity. They got dressed up into the characters from the nativity and sang loudly in their best voices. These are our youngest children and they made us all very proud.



The children in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) performed The Stable Story Nativity. We looked forward to seeing them on stage and they did not disappoint us. They sang the songs beautifully and had learnt all the words. Their costumes added to the atmosphere of the whole experience, making it a joy to watch.

The children in Key stage 2 performed in the Carols by Candlelight Concert. They had readings from the bible and sang carols to accompany them. The singing was a pleasure to listen to and included a range of traditional songs. The flame from the candles created an ambience of peace and harmony.

Mrs Badesha

Primary Phase

St Mary Magdalene Peninsula

Library Trip

As part of our English curriculum, SMMP Year 2 children visited Greenwich Centre Library and listened to a story read by one of the librarians. They read a variety of books independently and shared stories with their peers/adults. They also borrowed individual books to share in class. We plan to visit in the future as the children had a fantastic time.



Cinema Trip

SMMP Year 2 children were allowed to attend a class screening of "The Croods" at the Cineworld cinema, O2. The film was incredible and focused more on bringing others together than being divided. The children thoroughly enjoyed the movie.

Ms Okungbowa

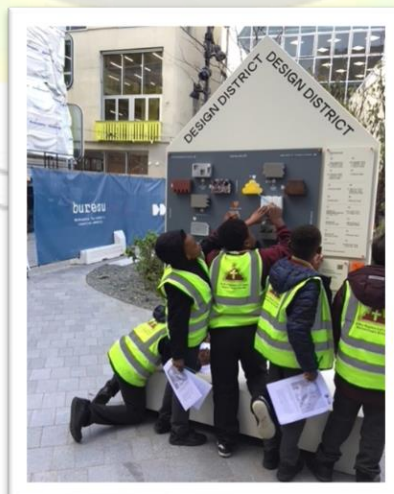
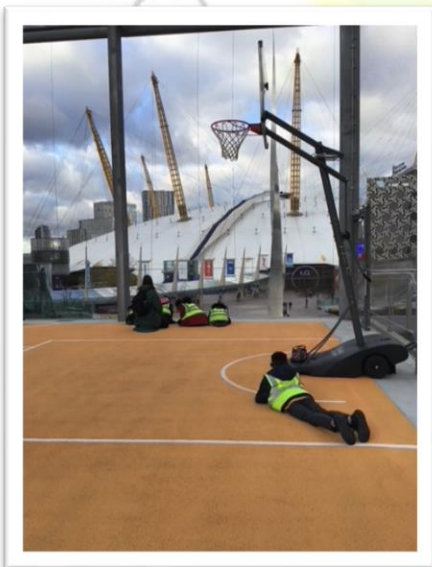
Across our primary campuses, many classes attended Cineworld for a cinema trip – we are very grateful our pupils have been able to experience the big screen.



Architecture in Schools

This term, Year 5 at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula had a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Architects in a school project. Year 5 went out on a field trip around the Peninsula design district to get inspiration about design, which they used in their final projects.

Mrs Murillo Rodriguez



Primary Phase

Messy Church Goes Wild

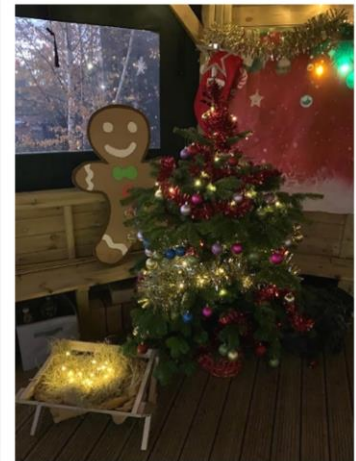
Run monthly by Holy Trinity Peninsula Church and the parish of East Greenwich, this mixes worship and prayer with outdoor activities, a fire pit and fun things to do. Last month a Sixth Form and a Y9 student helped Y6, Y4 and Y3 pupils toast bread and marshmallows over the fire. This month we made lanterns, enjoyed chestnuts and marshmallows toasted on the fire and sang carols.



The Forest School Community Garden

The Forest School Community Garden was also set up for the PFA Christmas Grotto that will welcome families into the garden for crafts, gifts and to see Santa! were also set up for the PFA Christmas Grotto that will welcome families into the garden for crafts, gifts and to see Santa!

Rev Hubbuck



Christmas Journey

Each of our Year 2 classes were lucky enough to be invited by Rev Dom to attend an immersive Christmas experience at Christ Church Greenwich. They had a storytelling session before meeting Mary and the Angel Gabriel while Mary was busy making bread, she even let them taste some. They then heard more of the Christmas story from some stable animals and one of the wise men.

Ms Mattin



Secondary Phase

Science Museum

In November, several of our year 9's took a cross-curricular trip to the Science Museum. During this trip, students attended a screening of Antarctica at the IMAX, learning about the organisms that live on the continent. After attending the film, students explored the Science Museum. We were fortunate to get to explore the Winton Gallery which focuses on Mathematics through the ages. We also explored exhibits on: the solar system and an engineering-based exhibit on the making of the modern world.

Ms Crutcher

Lunchtime revision

The Math Department has started running lunchtime revision for students to help them revise and provide help where needed on homework. The days assigned to each year group, are as follows: Monday: Year 8 and Year 9, Tuesday: Year 11, Wednesday: Year 7, Friday: Year 10.

Ms Crutcher

Lunchtime Youthwork Sessions



This term we said a sad farewell to Abi and Emmanuel. Two youth work apprentices on placement with Greenwich Youth for Christ.

They've been engaging with our secondary school students during lunchtimes for the last 2 years and now go on to placements elsewhere. With specialities in cheating at Uno, talking about life and faith and engaging some of our quietest and loudest students, we will miss their enthusiasm.

Greenwich Youth for Christ will still be working with Rev Dom, David Osborne and others to deliver youth work sessions, and youth alpha sessions after school and support our Table Talk Time with Year 9.

Rev Hubbuck

Kwame Alexander - Author Event



As a part of the Library and reading enrichment program, we have hosted an event where pupils from SMM and other schools from Royal Borough of Greenwich had a lifetime opportunity to meet a poet, educator, publisher, producer, a New York Times Bestselling author of 36 books Kwame Alexander. We were thrilled to have in our school an individual who engaged so well with pupils to show the importance of a resilient-oriented mindset and share such experience and valuable knowledge with our students. It empowered, motivated and inspired them.

Secondary Phase

A Level Trip to Valencia

This month 4 Year 13 students took part in an immersive excursion where the students experienced the life of a child their age in a town in Spain.

Going to a Spanish school, gave them another perspective on learning. Shadowing students was perfect, not only for practising Spanish but also allowing them to step out of their comfort zone.

What they did day by day:

On the first two days, the students spent time closely with a number of pupils at a Secondary School in Valencia, where they spent time together after school, visiting the town and museums of art. They had the chance to go to the fan fair with them and then go for dinner. They talked and exchanged their different lifestyles and made a very close friendship.

Students visited Valencia (city), they saw the 'Oceanographic' (the biggest aquarium in Europe), and visited famous squares and buildings in the city and the local market. They also enjoyed the flavours of the Spanish cuisine and the tasty 'Jamón serrano'.

On Sunday, we had the chance to go visit a Magnifique river and then had the most amazing cook who taught them how to cook a traditional Valencian PAELLA.

I believe that this experience will always be remembered by the Y13 students as the TRIP.

Ms Tormo



Norfolk Lakes

Year 7 School Journey- Norfolk Lakes

Students in year 7 visited manor adventures at Norfolk lakes on 14th Nov-18th, the first year 7 school journey since Year 7 journey trips were suspended. Their week was full of lots of fun activities and gave students the opportunity to bond and build teamwork within their family groups.

The student's first session students were very quiet and shy; during the activities day staff and instructors could see more and more teamwork forming and lots of positive communication. The students particularly enjoyed the giant stand up paddle boarding, caving, crate stacking, bouldering, manor Olympics and the full English breakfasts in the morning!



Year 6 School Journey

Year 6 children across the campuses had a fantastic time at Norfolk Lakes on their school journey! We took part in lots of activities, such as canoeing, giant canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, climbing, caving, archery, rifle shooting and lots more. Even though the weather was pretty rubbish and all of us got a bit soggy (not to mention those who fell in at various points throughout the week), we had a great time! We were all very tired come Friday, with many of us falling asleep on the coach on the way home.

Year 6 Team



Maths Focus

Maths Transition Lessons

Mr Hassan a Mathematics teacher from the Secondary phase, taught a lesson in all the Year 6 classes in the Federation.

He taught the children maths skills and problem-solving. The lesson was fun and enticing for the children with some recapping of fluency. The children thoroughly enjoyed the lesson they said that it was an engaging and fun lesson. He motivated the children to try their best. Overall, a great taster session for primary school students of what the secondary curriculum is like.

Mr Hassan said:

I had a lovely time visiting all the different Y6 classes in our federation. Not only did my visit display the wonderful work our primary teachers are putting in with their classes, but as well, the amazing potential the year 6 classes have.

My work yesterday was part of a bigger project to give reasoning and logic sessions to Y6 classes throughout the year. It's to hopefully bridge the gap between Y6 and Y7, as it is often a very daunting transition for them. These sessions are to be a fun insight into the content that is covered in Y7 which can be both challenging and accessible to all students.

Mrs Badesha

Sparx Maths

Since September all students have been completing their weekly maths homework on the Sparx Maths platform and we have seen this become a hugely successful part of mathematics education at St Mary Magdalene. The vast majority of students have been putting in a fantastic effort to complete 100% of the questions set each week. Even in these cold, dark weeks approaching Christmas, over 80% of students in all year groups are completing all of their maths homework. This consistent effort to complete independent learning outside of school is a really important part of making progress in Maths. Please encourage your child to continue to make the effort to complete 100% of their homework each week and use the platform to revise and consolidate their learning in school.

Special congratulations to the following students for collecting the most XP on the platform across the year so far.

Year 7 – Tiffany H
Year 8 – Glorian A
Year 9 – Jesselyn Y and Iyeesha T
Year 10 – Anthonia I
Year 11 – Perez O

If you have any questions about Sparx then please do contact the school and ask for Mr Todd

Mr Todd

The logo for Sparx Maths, featuring the word "SPARX" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background, followed by the word "MATHS" in blue capital letters on a white rectangular background.

Sixth Form

Careers

All Year 12 students are having a 1-2-1 meeting with an independent careers advisor to begin fully form their ideas about what they would like to do after sixth form. They will begin to think about their options in family groups before they attend these meetings.

Additional useful sites for careers and employability opportunities that have been sent to students:

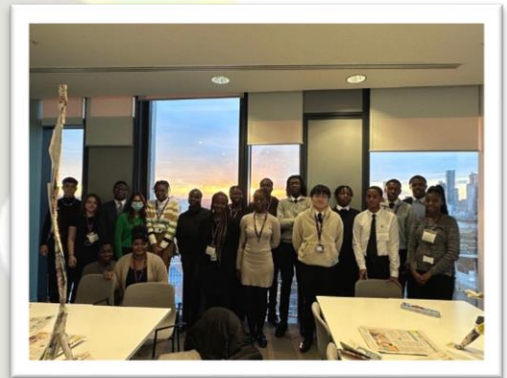
- UpTree
<https://uptree.co/a/signup/student/bkseby/>
- InvestIn
https://investin.org/collections/our-programmes?filter.p.m.product_filters.age=Ages+15-18
*These courses are paid, use the school code for 10% off – stmarycofe10
- Speakers For Schools
<https://account.speakersforschools.org/Account/Login?fromlegacy=true&app=true>

Students who have expressed an interest in the following career pathways listed below are receiving specialist guidance and have had a number of talks from individuals who are currently working in these industries.

- Accounting, Banking, Law and Finance
- The Creative Industries
- Business and Construction

The Y12s who went on a trip to the L&Q Peninsula offices

Some students have begun undertaking their EPQ with many students completing their UCAS applications.



Wellbeing

Ensuring the well-being of our students at our 6th form has been a priority as we grow. To support this, we invited an external agency Tellmi to offer support.

Tellmi has been visiting Greenwich schools and youth hubs to connect with young people and make sure their views are expressed in their app and wider work. As part of this young people are asked to identify positive parts of their environment and wellbeing and then to reflect on areas that could be improved. The information shared in this session is used to improve support in the app directory and is fed back to partners to help them improve their own provision. At this point in time over 250 young people have completed these sessions and there are plans to further increase and strengthen this number.



Rewards

As a sixth form, we continuously acknowledge students for their hard work over the term and as a result of that rewards are given to those who have overall achieved the most positive points throughout the half term.



These students have won a day trip of their choice as a result of their hard work this term.

Mr Watson

Year 12 Large Scale Artwork

Year 12 have been experimenting with drawing from a distance. Using brushes attached to long instruments and 'drawing machines, they've been creating free and expressive work inspired by Rebecca Horn. Our Year 12's have been drawing with these instruments and their feet, and have been pushing the boundaries of what it means to draw.

Mr Howe



This Half Term's Sports News

Y9 Football vs Prendergast

Y9 played their Blackheath Cup fixture against Prendergast Ladywell.



Y10 Football vs Deptford Green

The Y10 Football Team narrowly lost out to Deptford Green in the Blackheath Cup. The players did very well considering they only had ten players and no recognised goalkeeper.
Player of the Match – Hamilton

6th Form Basketball vs John Roan

The 6th Form Basketball Team had their first-ever fixture against John Roan a very closely contested game! There were lots of school debuts on the show and a great crowd turned out to watch.
MVP – Lanre O



Y7/8 Girls Football Tournament

The Y7/8 Girl's Football Team competed in a tournament at Millwall FC.

Player of the Tournament –
Rebecca M

Boxing Club

Pupils have been working very hard at Boxing Club. Every Tuesday pupils are taken to Royal Resistance Boxing Gym in Kidbrooke. This week they were fortunate enough to meet Dan Azeez (British Champion) and get some advice from his coaching team.



SMM Secondary PE Tracksuit Top

The new SMM Secondary PE Tracksuit Top is now 'LIVE' and available to purchase via the below link within the school uniform shop. Pupils in ALL years in secondary school can purchase the tracksuit top and wear this for their PE lessons. There is an option to add the initials of the child to the top at an additional cost. Tracksuits can be ordered to home or school, when ordered to school there will be no delivery charge. Please see below an image of the PE Tracksuit Top taken from the school shop website.

https://khalaschoolwear.co.uk/product/quarter-zip-mid-layer-for-all/?aw_school=31025

