[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiHr7KPiazfAhXux4UKHaptBFsQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://hu.depositphotos.com/92590074/stock-illustration-christmas-decorative-corner-with-fir.html&psig=AOvVaw2U8LRLEBWLK9bNRjLJ0Zox&ust=1545314987313814)



***Worship Together - Aspire Together- Excel Together***

*We have reached the end of 2018; I would like to take this opportunity to say a very BIG THANK YOU to all parents, pupils and staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year and your kind donations and gifts during this season.*

***Monday 7th January 2019 is a school INSET Day – school is closed to pupils.***

***Pupils return Tuesday 8th January 2019***

**Last day of Term – Friday 21st December 2018- SCHOOL CLOSES EARLY.**

If your child is in A.M. Nursery, normal practice will continue and you will collect your child at 11.30am

There will be **NO** P.M. Nursery.

If your child attends full time Nursery they will be collected at 1.00pm. KS1 children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will be collected at 1.00pm. KS2 children (Years 3-5) will be collected at 1.15pm.

Year 6 pupils will be finishing at 1.00pm.

It has been a very busy year and below are just a few of the things to celebrate what has occurred in English Martyrs’ as well as what has been happening this term.

**Beat The Street** - Our school reached 3rd place in Beat the Street resulting in vouchers to spend on P.E. equipment for the school. Thank you to pupils, parents and staff that participated. There is a special event planned on 20th January from 1.00pm-4.00pm at Burgess Park. More information is available to view on our website and posters will be displayed after the holidays.

**Year 4** visited Westminster Cathedral to participate in a Christmas concert. Pupils in the year 6 singing group were warmly welcomed at Darwin Court on 7th December where they held a Christmas Carol Service.  Ola, from Darwin Court said "***They all sang beautifully and were very brave to perform in front of so many people!"*** Well done to the children in Year 6 who participated!

**London History schools’ Day 2018** – Children across London were asked to attend school on 25th May dressed as their favourite historic Londoner. This was a fun way for them to connect with and understand our great city and its people. Our pupils and staff made a wonderful effort with their costumes.

**Science week March 2018** - Science week started with a bang - or with flying feathers - all the children were treated to a bird display. They learnt about habitats, adaptation to environment and experienced the birds flying. We received lots of fantastic entries for the poster competition and deciding a winner was very hard.

**[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjmn-fijJHaAhWG6xQKHWioAUIQjRx6BAgAEAU&url=https://www.pinterest.com/pin/512777107565684588/&psig=AOvVaw0iNNp-LcOpETruQiOxC-_r&ust=1522398028418679)Book Week** – Pupils enjoyed activities in their classrooms throughout book week which had a focus on poetry. There were lovely costumes on World Book Day and we had a poet visitor - Adisa who read poetry to the children and encouraged them to make their own poetry.

**Fox Cubs** – Do you remember our special visitors? ... We had unexpected visitors to the school. A mummy fox came and nested in the Nursery playground and gave birth to 5 fox cubs, and in the Reception playground a cat gave birth to 4 kittens. The children were very excited to see our guests and very considerate about the noise and not scaring the babies.

**Junior Chaplains assembly -** Our Junior Chaplains Treasure, Andrew, Samantha and Samuel have been doing their monthly assemblies for children in Building 1 and 2.  Can you remember what they taught you about Advent?

**Prayer monitors -** A big well done to the prayer monitors who have been encouraging all their classmates to donate as much food as possible for the end of term mass! Thank you to all the families who have donated so far.  Your contribution is greatly appreciated by those less fortunate within our community.  Remember that the mass will be on 21.12.18 but the donations are always welcome and our food bank collection will continue.

**[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjvsNmqlq7fAhVFzIUKHYp1AmMQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.123rf.com/clipart-vector/thank_you_note.html&psig=AOvVaw2N1izG6qZOHhNJ9HN9Upn4&ust=1545387256951521)Food Bank** – The donations for the food bank have been outstanding, you have all been very kind and considerate at this time of year, with over 800 donations. I am extremely proud of the staff, parents and pupils for the contributions. With so much donated we have already taken lots of boxes to the church; pupils will present more at whole school mass on Friday morning. Parents are invited to attend. Well done to everyone! In particular the classes who went that extra mile. In 3rd place Ms Russell class 1K, 2nd place Ms Clarke, class 5E and 1st place \*drumroll\* Ms Hughes, class 5T.

**Christmas Jumper Day –** A very big thank you to parents, pupils and staff for their donations to Save the Children charity and for wearing their Christmas Jumpers, the school raised an impressive £223.26 for the charity.

**After School Clubs** – Parents completed a questionnaire regarding an external after school club, thank you for your patience on this; we are still working with the agency on suitability and hope to have more information for you in the New Year.

**Cashless School -** We are in the process of meeting with ParentPay, some may know of this company as lots of secondary schools use this system. We are in the process of changing over to a cashless school sometime in the New Year. This means that the school will no longer accept cash for Nursery fees/Nursery lunches, trips, own clothes day etc etc. More information will be available for parents soon.

**Parent workshops to be held in January 2019**

**Employment Skills Workshop –** Organised by Ms Platt - Thursday 31st January 2019 from 9.00am-11.30am, if you need to create or update your CV, practice interview skills and search for jobs this will be of benefit to you, workshop will be held in the ICT Suite. This has been very successful in the past, resulting in one parent securing a job.

**Aspects of Family Life series, Parent Gym - 7 sessions on Wednesdays from 9.00am-11.00am.** 23rd January 2019 to 13th March 2019. A great session for parents to discuss and share tips on maintaining calm and happy families. To be held in the study room in support with Ms Platt. **All parents are welcome!!**

External Workshop -**Improve your English (ESOL Course)** Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 7HT, Tel: 020 7450 1889 Enrol on 7th January 10am or 5pm, bring photo ID and prove of benefits or salary

Year 2 Parent Homework workshop– selected parents have been invited to attend a special workshop that will help you learn how to support your child’s learning and strengthen their skills in preparation for the Year 2 SATs.

Helpful money saving tips for Christmas

* **Free recycled paint, wallpaper. boxes and small furniture**-Collect from

 Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre, 53 Devon Street, SE15 1A

* **EMS foodbank,** contact Father Thomas at the Church if in need of food or toiletries

-**Southwark Foodbank – Pecan** Providing emergency ***food*** for local people in financial crisis.

121A Peckham High Street, SE15 5SE, Tel: 0207 732 0007

* **Warm Home Discount Benefit**-reducing utility bills. Apply via [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/)

Please continue to support your child’s learning over the holidays by listening to them read and signing their reading records, also to keep their maths fresh using MyMaths.

We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and God’s blessing for the New Year.

God Bless

Mrs Appah

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwimjMqan67fAhVszoUKHWEoCxIQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://clipartix.com/baby-jesus-clipart-image-42920/&psig=AOvVaw1dPEOK0wNLWdH-c_D64Akz&ust=1545389639883275)