

Newsletter



Greek School of Ayia
Triada Birmingham
Strive, Learn, Grow in our
Community



Hello
December

Message from our teachers



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the December edition of our school newsletter! Winter is upon us and Christmas is just around the corner. This month's newsletter is full of festive fun and updates!

'Tis the season to be jolly, and Christmas and New Year are special to our community. It is a time for gathering family and friends, exchanging gifts, food, news and good cheer.

December has been loaded with events for our students. As our term comes to a close, we had the chance to wind down a little and get into the spirit of Christmas with activities such as drawing, baking, carol singing and -of course- acting!

Once again we would like to thank all parents and guardians for your continuing support, and the children for their hard work and perseverance this term.

All of us, the staff of the Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham, would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and an extremely happy New Year! We hope that you all have a good rest and a lovely celebration with loved ones.

We will see you all again in the new year, rested and ready to start Term 2. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the week beginning 8th January 2024.

Warm Regards
Sonia Phocas



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ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ

Να 'μουν του σταύλου έν' άχυρο, ένα φτωχό κομμάτι
την ώρα η' άνοιξ' ο Χριστός στον ήλιο του το μάτι.

Να ιδώ την πρώτη του ματιά και το χαμόγελό του,
το στέμμα των ακτίνων του χύρω στο μέτωπό του.

Να λάμψω από τη λάμψη του κι' εχώ σαν διαμαντάκι
κι' από τη θεία του πνοή να χίνω λουλουδάκι.

Να μοσκοβοληθώ κι' εχώ από την ευωδία,
που άναψε στα πόδια του των Μάγων η λατρεία.

Να 'μουν του σταύλου ένα άχυρο ένα φτωχό κομμάτι
την ώρα η' άνοιξ' ο Χριστός στον ήλιο του το μάτι.

Κωστής Παλαμάς

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Holidays : December 20th- January 8th
- Christmas Celebration: Sunday 17th December
- Cake Sale: December 16th-17th
- Christmas Party for School children: Monday 18th December
- Christmas Carols: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th at 19.30



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

NURS. & REC.

Christina D
Ioannis W

YEAR 1

Theodoros N
Emily B
Stavros K
Kalista P

YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Philp G.
Leonardo Th.
Margarita K
Evangelos F

YEAR 3

Ephraim S
Raphaella S
Leonidas E.
George I

YEAR 5

Alexandros Ch.
Vaggelis A.
Zacharias K
Anna Maria K

YEAR 6 & GCSE

Melina D
Anastasis D
Manolis M
Christos S
Stella T
Artemis G
Aimilia B

A LEVELS

Eleni A


Congratulations!






CHRISTMAS JUMPER WEEK

Every December our school takes part in the Christmas Jumper day. Teachers and children come to school sporting their most festive or funny jumpers and raise money for Save The Children. This organisation works hard to provide clothes, food and warm shelter to children in need at Christmas time. We are proud to say that our school did its part this year aw well. A very big thank you to all and your generous donations, we managed to raise the amount of £200.



Thank you

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham

For Raising the amount of

£200



SAVE THE CHILDREN'S

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



DRAWING COMPETITION



This year the children of our school took part in ANTI Europe's 16th drawing competition for Greeks and Cypriots living abroad! Our school was one of the 110 Greek schools around the world to take part! Every child drew a Christmas themed picture, sending Christmas wishes to everyone in Greece and Cyprus, joining us together in Christmas cheer and goodwill!



2023 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



On Sunday 17th December the whole school came together to bring our Christmas play to life for the whole community. The younger classes performed the nativity story and the older children entertained the audience with the story of the Quilt Lady (Η Παπλωματού).

Father Christmas paid us a visit, bearing sweet treats for all the children, and the day ended with a raffle draw and many prizes. A great time was had by all!

2023 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Εορτολόγιο

2023 DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 04 Δεκεμβρίου Αγία Βαρβάρα
- 06 Δεκεμβρίου Άγιον Νικολάου
- 09 Δεκεμβρίου Αγία Άννα
- 12 Δεκεμβρίου Άγιον Σπυρίδων
- 15 Δεκεμβρίου Ελευθέριος
- 24 Δεκεμβρίου Παραμονή Χριστουγέννων
- 25 Δεκεμβρίου Χριστούγεννα
- 26 Δεκεμβρίου Εμμανουήλ
- 31 Δεκεμβρίου Παραμονή Πρωτοχρονιάς



A LITTLE INFO ON OUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY SWEETS!

Melomakarona/Honey biscuits

Melomakarona (μελομακάρονα) are traditional Greek Christmas cookies, that are served during Christmas time throughout Greece. The word "melomakarona" is a combination of the two words "meli", which means honey and "makarona". "Makarona" comes from the ancient word "makaria" and means blessed. In the olden days, Melomakarona used to be served on the lead up to Christmas as a Lenten "kerasma" (treat) to enjoy during fasting. Since they have no egg or dairy, Melomakarona are vegan and perfect if you are fasting or are on a vegan diet!



Kourabiedes / Greek Butter cookies

Kourabiedes (kourambiethes) are traditional Greek Christmas almond butter biscuits, packed with the aromas of roasted almonds, fresh butter and rosewater and garnished with luscious layers of icing sugar. They are the ultimate Christmas cookie! Their incredible aroma spreads through the house and brings back all those wonderful festive memories!



The tradition of Vasilopita cake (Greek New Year's cake)

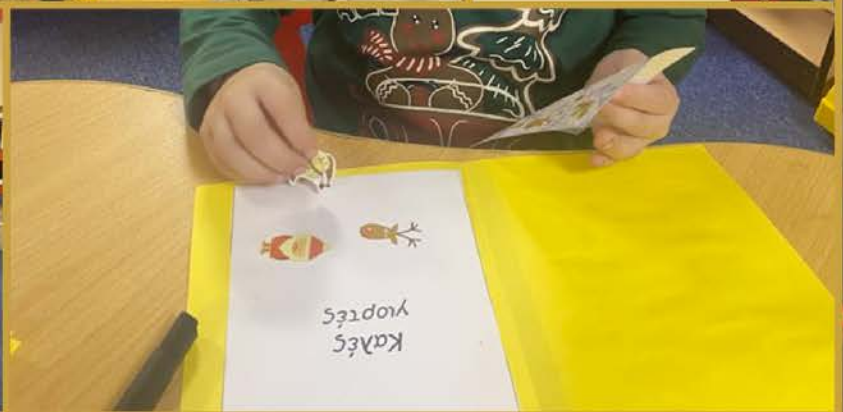
Vasilopita is the traditional Greek cake or bread served at midnight on New Year's Eve to celebrate the life of Saint Basil. After baking the Vasilopita cake, a coin is inserted through the base. When cut, the person who finds the coin is said to be granted luck for the rest of the year!

Vasilopita can be made of a variety of doughs, depending on the region, with almost every family having their own unique recipe. There are two main variations of Vasilopita - the cake version, which is this recipe here and the tsoureki vasilopita version, which is the same as an easter Tsoureki and my Tsoureki in a bread machine but rather shaped in a tin!

In most Greek households, the cake is served right after midnight on New Year's Day, while some also serve it later in the day after the traditional New Year meal and together with some Melomakarona and kourabiedes! Finally, Vasilopita is often traditionally cut and served in businesses and associations, usually during the first week of the year as a token to welcome the new year with health and prosperity. And of course, the member or employee that finds the coin is given money or a special gift!



NURSERY-RECEPTION



TUESDAY



MONDAY & SATURDAY



DANCE CLASSES



This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous.

Dance classes are on Monday 19:00-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for the children and then 19:00-20:00 for adults, and on Saturday we also run two groups: one for the school children from 14:00-15:00 (which is for two different age groups) and then from 15:00-16:00 for adults dance group.



It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students





The Rights of the Child

Vol. 2

Article 11: Stay Safe and Sound!

No one can take you away from your country without permission.

Articles 12-13 : Speak Your Mind! Talk. Explore. Enjoy!

You have the right to talk and share your thoughts and feelings about things that matter to you. Adults should really listen to what you have to say, especially when they make big decisions that affect you!

Articles 14-15: Believe and Belong!

Everyone's beliefs should be respected! And of course, you can make friends!

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham is proudly a Rights Respecting School.

Article 16: Your Own Space!

You deserve privacy. The rules should protect your personal stuff, and nobody should say mean things about you.

Articles 17-19: Know What's Going On!

You have the right to get good information from lots of places. Everyone wants to make sure you grow up happy and healthy!

Article 20: Extra Help for Kids Away from Home!

If you can't be with your family, the government will make sure you get special care that feels just right for you. They'll respect your culture, language, and beliefs!



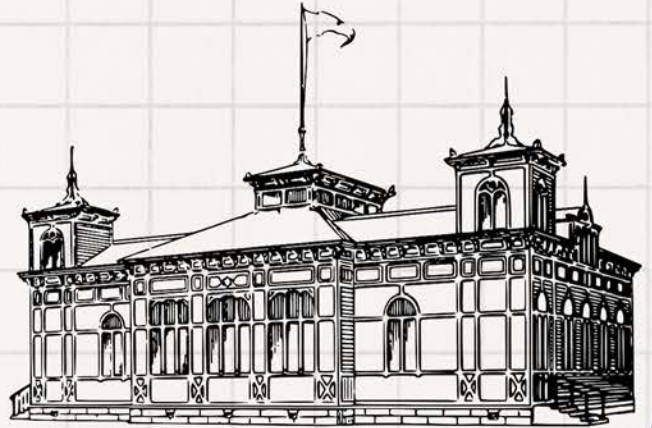
What's new?



Hooray!

Our school is a European parliament ambassador school!

Our ambassadors are preparing an amazing project that will be very soon on display by the school entrance! It's amazing how many things we are learning for the European countries!!



European Corner

DECEMBER IS FOR FINLAND

Independence Day of Finland: is a national public holiday, and a flag flying day, held on 6 December to celebrate Finland's declaration of full independence from the Russian Empire when the Bolsheviks took power in late 1917.





Merry Christmas

Wishing you joy and cheer this holiday season and a bright new year ahead!

The Management Board, the Headteacher and the Teachers of GSAT

