



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

020 8850 7835

[www.stmarys-catholic-primary.org](http://www.stmarys-catholic-primary.org)

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*We have been walking around the classes since the beginning of term and are so pleased with the atmosphere in school. Children are eager to learn, listening attentively and determined to do their best. We are so lucky to have wonderful children here at St Mary's who are supported by hard working staff, parents and carers.*

*Please continue to support your children's education by listening to them read regularly, discussing their homework and maintaining a strong relationship between school and home.*

*Mr Sims and Miss Phipps*

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### *Reading*

Please listen to your Infant children read their book **EVERY DAY**. Junior children should also be reading to their parents. Their contact books need to be signed regularly. It is so important that Junior children can read for at least 20 minutes in one stretch. Preferably, this needs to be extended as they get older. Unless they can read for longer periods and build up their understanding through questioning, they will find it increasingly difficult to successfully manage their comprehension exercises in class.

### *RE News*

The **Wednesday Word** this week is "Jesus". When Jesus is in our lives, we can face challenges knowing that He is there. Family life is enhanced by spending a few minutes together every day talking to Jesus.



Harvest Mass will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Due to space restrictions parents cannot attend the Mass. You can start bringing items in to school from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Food must be non-perishable, sealed and in date e.g. tinned meat and fish, rice, pasta, dried herbs and spices, tea and coffee. Toiletries, cutlery, plates, towels and bedding are always needed. These items are passed to Sister Susan, who works tirelessly for Providence Row.



The children who joined our Reception class this September will start full time from next Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> September. They have enjoyed staying for their lunches this week and look forward to remaining at school until 3.15pm from Monday. They all look very happy in their new classes.

The Reception teachers would like to invite their new parents to attend a meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm. The teachers would like to answer any questions parents may have and just to discuss what it is like having a child in Reception. It is a good opportunity to clarify any queries.



Please refer to the Key Dates on the website. More dates will be added as we confirm them. We try to give parents plenty of notice to book time off work or arrange childcare if needed.

## GENERAL NEWS



Every child will need a Wisepay account by Half Term. Whole school correspondence is sent through Wisepay. Uniform can also be ordered and school dinners and trips can be paid for. In exceptional circumstances we will accept cash payments at the main office but overall, we would like everyone to use the cashless system. Please ask any questions that you may have at the office and the ladies will help you.



Do not forget that all Infant children are entitled to a free school meal each day. Your child may prefer to bring a packed lunch so there will be no pressure put on them to have a school dinner. That is your decision but it is worth considering having a hot meal in the middle of the day. **The office staff have to be informed if your child changes from one to the other and they must not change mid-week.**

The cost of school meals for Junior children this half term is £82.88. You may decide to pay weekly, which is £12.95 for the full week (£2.59 per day). All meals must be paid for in full before the October half term.

### **Claiming for Free School Meals**

St Mary's is now responsible for managing its own Pupil Premium funding so please come to the main office to enquire if you think you are eligible. The application process is very straightforward. You can apply by following this link (<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>) but if you wish, you can speak to Mrs Jefferys to fill in the online application for you.

Although all Infant children receive free school meals, parents may still be entitled to some additional funding so please apply. Schools receive funding for all their Pupil Premium children so I would strongly urge you to complete an application.

## *School Fund*

Many thanks for the school fund contributions which have been donated. Each year we ask parents for this **voluntary contribution (£10 per family)** to subsidise extra events. This fund helps to subsidise visiting theatre companies, merit awards etc.

## *Travel News*

We are delighted to inform you that Transport for London (TfL) have approved the St Mary's STARS Gold application. STARS is a scheme that inspires young Londoners to travel to school sustainably, actively, responsibly and safely by championing walking, scooting and cycling. Not only are these modes of travel good for our health, they are also good for the environment.

It is a fantastic achievement so many thanks to all the parents and children who embraced the scheme. A huge thanks must go to Miss Hogan and Mrs Whitewood for organising walking, scooting and cycling to school days and for the Junior travel ambassadors for actively working to promote the travel events.

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**



### *Instrumental Lessons*

Instrumental lessons will resume on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. The cost per term is £65 and cheques must be made payable to the music tutor. If you have any questions please ask our Music Co-Ordinator, Ms Wyld.

We welcome some new music tutors (clarinet, flute and violin) who are starting this term. We are just confirming arrangements with our violin teacher but she should be able to start soon.



### *After School Clubs*

All the after school clubs, apart from Irish dancing, are now up and running. Irish dancing will start on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Letters for the clubs are outside the main office. The Infant art class is full but if your child is interested please speak to the art teacher and she will put you on a waiting list.

Mrs Turpin and Miss Hogan are starting Y6 boys/girls football club in Eltham Park South on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm. Please return your permission slip if you wish your child to participate. Children can be collected from the park at 4.30pm

Children must be collected from the Middle Gate at 4.30pm. Club Leaders will escort them to this gate.

Mrs Randell would like to inform you that French Club will commence on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Spaces are still available so please pick up a letter outside the Main Office if your child is interested.

Mrs Randell is running a day trip to Bruges before Christmas. Details will be available next week but spaces are limited so please let the main office know if it something you would like to do.

### *PA Event*

#### **Posh or Plonk Wine Tasting Event**

The PA are looking forward to hosting their first event of this year (Posh or Plonk Wine Tasting) on Saturday 13th October at 7:30pm. Tickets will be available to buy next week (£15 per ticket including nibbles). Tickets must be bought in advance so look out for PA members in the school waiting area. Each table can have a maximum of 6 people. This will be a fun night to come to with friends to sample a variety of wines. Please look out for emails with more details.

### *Vacancy*

#### **Teaching Assistant – Level 2**

We would like to appoint a new member of support staff to work with a Junior child. The post will be from 8.45am – 12.15pm each morning, Monday to Friday, (17.5 hours a week). **This position will be on a temporary contract that will be reviewed at the end of the year.**

Preference will be given to a person with previous experience working with children with SEN needs. Please contact Mrs Dockings or Mrs Jefferys in the school office (0208 850 7835 or email: [kdockings@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:kdockings@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk) or [jjefferys@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:jjefferys@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk)) for further details and an application form.

**Closing Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

With kind regards

Miss C Phipps and Mr J Sims  
Headteachers