



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

21st September 2018

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CURRICULUM NEWS



Mathletics

We can confirm that Mathletics is now up and running. All children should have their passwords so encourage them to login and explore the site. Homework will be set for the individual year groups.



RE News

The **Wednesday Word** this week is "Serve". The children had an assembly this morning talking about serving in the community and how we all can improve our lives by learning to serve one another.



Please help us to support our charity, **Providence Row** for Harvest Festival. Thank you for the donations given already but please keep them coming. A couple of items per family soon adds up and can help someone less fortunate. You may have a few tins/jars hiding in the back of your cupboard so as long as they are in date please bring them along. Providence Row are looking for:-

Non-perishable foods	Toiletries
Mugs/plates/bowls	Cutlery
Bedding for single beds	Bath and hand towels (used but in good condition)
Items of baby clothing and essentials for the new mother and baby unit.	

Our **Harvest Mass is on Thursday 27th September**. Due to space restrictions parents cannot attend the Mass. Many thanks you for your support.

Y6 Secondary Transfer Meeting - Monday 24th September - 6pm

If you have a child in Y6 come along to this meeting to hear details about the application process for secondary school. It is very informative. A representative from St Paul's Academy will attend. Afterwards, there will be more information about our Y6 residential journey to Kingswood. Please note that children will not be required to attend.

If you require any assistance with any of the application forms, please do not hesitate to ask.

Phonics and Maths Workshops- Gym Hall

A phonics and maths workshop is taking place on Thursday 4th October at 9am in the Gym Hall. Please come along if you can as it has proved to be very beneficial in previous years. Tea and coffee will be served prior to the talk.

These sessions are aimed at YR and Nursery parents.

Key Dates

Please refer to the Key Dates on the website for an overall view of the year ahead. More dates will be added when they are confirmed. Please note the following dates for this half term:

Monday 24 th	Y6 secondary school/school journey meeting – 6pm
Tuesday 25 th	New parents to walk around – 11am PA meet and greet event – 7pm – Gym Hall PA Meeting – Gym Hall – 7pm (Nibbles supplied prior to meeting at 7.30pm)
Thursday 27 th	Harvest Mass
Tuesday 2 nd	Class L Mass
Thursday 4 th	Phonics and maths workshop for nursery and reception parents – 9am
Friday 5 th	Y3 educational visit
Tuesday 9 th / Wednesday 10 th	Parents' evening
Tuesday 16 th	Class I Mass
Wednesday 17 th	Y4 Educational trip
Thursday 18 th	School breaks up for half term
Friday 19 th	Inset Day

GENERAL NEWS

WisePay

Every child will need a Wisepay account by half term. Whole school correspondence is sent through Wisepay. If you are experiencing problems logging in please contact the main office.

Bookshop

Bookshop is up and running. We are very lucky to have volunteer parents who come every Tuesday to run bookshop. Infant children are escorted to the dining hall so they can select a book and save up for it. Every child should have a savings card to see how much they are saving. There is a great selection of books available which is constantly updated. Children love choosing their own book. It is very important for them to get into the habit of reading. They will never be bored if they have a book to read. Junior children can go to bookshop during their lunch break every Tuesday.



Class J Mass

Please join Mrs Whitewood and her class to celebrate their special Mass on Tuesday 25th September. This will take place in the Convent at 10am. Please use McAuley Close to enter the Convent if you are attending.

Survey on Values

Thank you to those members of our school community who have already taken part in our school values survey. If you have not yet completed, please take a minute to contribute to our shared values. We wish you a happy and peaceful weekend.

Survey Link:

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/p/R5JL3qq2?qid=1087341>



Headboy/Headgirl

Y6 have been writing their head girl and head boy speeches this week. The shortlisted candidates outlined their pledges in front of the Juniors and the voting began shortly afterwards.

We are delighted to announce the following:

Head Boy: Louie Richardson

Head Girl: Trixie Martinez

Deputy Head Boy: Harry Williams

Deputy Head Girl: Olivia Badiane

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



After School Clubs

Please look at the list of after school clubs. If your child would like to participate, please enquire. Letters are outside the main office so come along and pick one up. The new creative arts club (formally street dance) is open to children from Y1-Y6. There are spaces available.

Y1 Football	Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm	Y1-Y6 Irish Dancing	Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Y6 Football	Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm	Y1-Y2 Art	Thursday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Y3-Y6 Netball	Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm	Y2-Y6 Sewing	Thursday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Y1-Y6 Gymnastics	Tuesday 3.30pm-4.15pm	Y3-Y6 Creative Arts	Friday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Y2-Y3 Football	Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm	Y1-Y4 AllkidsCan	Friday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Y2-Y6 Sewing	Tuesday 3.30pm-4.30pm		
Y3-Y6 Art	Wednesday 3.30pm-4.30pm		

PA News

Tuesday 25th September

Meet and Greet for Nursery/Reception Parents followed by PA meeting

The PA would like to invite parents of Nursery/Reception children to a meet and greet evening at 7pm on Tuesday 25th in the Gym Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be served. It is a good opportunity to chat to other new parents and meet some members of staff. The PA meeting will follow at 7.30pm and you will be very welcome to stay to hear about the good work the PA does.

Saturday 13th October

Posh or Plonk Wine Tasting Event – 7.30pm

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 are available to buy from the main office (£15 per ticket including nibbles). Tickets must be bought in advance so get in quickly! 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.

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 or jjefferys@stmary-rc.greenwich.sch.uk) for further details and an application form.

Closing Date: 28th September 2018.

With kind regards

Miss C Phipps and Mr J Sims
Headteachers

Message from Mr Paul Drake - Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to see that the new academic year has started well with everyone settling into their new classes. We are all looking forward to lots of exciting activities over the coming weeks and months.

Parents/Carers do ask about the academy and what's changed – the simple answer is, as we promised when we discussed the conversion with you back in 2017, not a lot that you can see. The back of house operational systems have dramatically changed to facilitate the new processes and procedures necessary for the academy system, but teaching and learning still takes precedent and still looks the same as it did a year ago.

Academy conversion put the leadership and management in the driving seat and we are confident that we are doing the right thing every day for the benefit of our pupils and staff.

There was a recent documentary on television highlighting an academy chain that was accused of financial irregularity and it's not unreasonable for parents/carers to be concerned about how their own academy school is fairing.

There are many different types of academy out there from the large MATs or multi-academy trusts that could have 10, 20 or more schools in their group, to the single academy trust like St Mary's which has one school. As a standalone academy, we don't have any sponsors or businesses behind us, rather as a Catholic school we have the Diocese. We also have a committed and hardworking set of governors who give up their time voluntarily; always worth pointing out that our governors are not paid nor do they have business interests connected to the school.

We receive our funding directly from the government now and you can "see the books" through our annual accounts which are published on our Trust website and filed at Companies House. Maintained schools controlled by the Local Authority do not have to do this and it can be tricky for parents/carers to gain access to that kind of information to judge for themselves how financially sound their local school is. We have a Finance Committee with lots of financial and other experience who hold the school to account in delivering best value for goods and services whilst ensuring that maximum benefit is derived for the children. This is independently verified by an external team of auditors. I am confident that the checks and balances are securely in place.

We did apply for academy specific funding last year but sadly we were unsuccessful that time and a new application will go forward in November. When we are successful in securing grant funding then we will go to great lengths to ensure that every penny is spent for the benefit of our pupils and will be transparent through our website in demonstrating that commitment.

One point covered in that documentary, although briefly, was whilst they had found suspected financial irregularity in that particular academy chain, they recognised that 95% of academies were found to be running correctly. I also tend to think that the reason the story is sensationalised is because it remains a rarity rather than the norm. I do hope that you son or daughter enjoys the year ahead.

I welcome feedback and correspondence from parents; you can drop me off a letter at the school office or send me an email to governors@stmarys-catholic-primary.org

With every best wish

Paul Drake

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS