

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

We celebrated World Mental Health Day yesterday. Each of the classes had an activity that centred around mental health and we spoke about how important it is to find time to be calm, to have a chat with someone or to do activities that make one feel happy.

I have included some links to website that you may find useful for yourselves and your families.

Action for Happiness – Optimistic October Calendar

<https://actionforhappiness.org/calendar>

Action for Happiness – 10 Days of Happiness Program

<https://10daysofhappiness.org/>

Mind

<https://selmind.org.uk/>

Mental Health Foundation

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/world-mental-health-day>

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy some time outdoors in the Autumn sunshine.

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Y5 Class Mass in Convent

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Cross Country Event in Avery Hill Park  
Y3/Y4 Tag Rugby Tournament in Hervey Road Sport's Ground  
Parent's Evening 3.30pm-6pm

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Y5/Y6 Rugby Tournament in Hervey Road Sport's Ground  
Parent's Evening 3.30pm-6pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Staff Training Day. Children should not attend school on this day

### FAITH FRIENDS

Faith Friends led the Rosary for parents and carers in the gym hall this morning. The children reflected on the story of the Wedding at Cana. Thank you to everyone that joined us this morning. It was lovely to see it was so attended.

At lunchtime, the Faith Friends gathered in the prayer garden to enjoy the beautiful Autumn sunshine. The children reflected on who they would like to pray for.



**SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE**

## PRAYER AND LITURGY

Children in class D shared the parable of The Sower. Jesus told the disciples a story about a farmer who was sowing seed, some fell on rocky ground, some on thorny ground and some on good soil. We realised that the story talked about us opening our hearts to God as well as listening and thinking about God, and growing in faith with God.



## PARENTS EVENINGS 16<sup>TH</sup>/17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

All parents and carers should have already booked a meeting to see their child's class teacher. Mrs Jeffrey has been calling parents to make sure they have booked their timeslot. Please ensure you have taken a note of the times you have booked. The system will be open until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October for parents to check. The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm on both days. Each appointment is 10 minutes long and we encourage all parents to keep to their allotted time.

Infant teachers will be based in the dining hall and Junior teachers in the gym hall. Children in Y5/Y6 can accompany their parents to their meeting.

Miss Dennis will speak to the Nursery parents in the Nursery.

Mrs Henderson, our SENCO, will also see parents on both days in her office.

The children will finish at the slightly earlier time of 3pm on Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child is collected promptly. After school clubs **will not take place** on either day. Wraparound care will take place as normal. Children who normally walk home on their own cannot leave unaccompanied by an adult before 3.15pm.

## LITERACY



*This week Mrs Thaxter recommends a poem.....*

**Roger McGough  
Fruity**

*Plums are plummy  
Pears are peary  
Peaches are peachy  
Goosegogs are hairy  
And pineapples?  
SCARY*

## RBG POETRY COMPETITION

RB Greenwich have just launched their annual poetry competition. This year's theme is *counting*. Children can write any type of poem inspired by the *counting* theme. The maximum number of lines is 20.

Completed poems can be handed to Mrs Thaxter by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, stating your name, year group and class. We look forward to seeing your creative counting!

## BBC 500 WORD COMPETITION

BBC's 500 Words, the UK's largest children's writing competition for children aged 5-11 returns from Tuesday 24 September to Friday 8 November 2024. There are two age categories:

- 5-7 year olds
- 8-11 year olds.

All children need to do is to write a story in 500 words or less!

Please inform Mrs Thaxter if you enter a story...she would love to read it!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Jude and Heath Simmonds were mini mascots for Blackheath Rugby Club last weekend. They brought luck to the team as they won their match.



Cece Otley, 1D, took part in a Rainbow Challenge to raise money for Tommy's. She raised £335 for the baby charity. Great work!



Jessica Little, 4I, and her brother Samuel, 1D, recently completed their first triathlon in Torbay. A marvellous achievement!



Thomas Smith, 1D, achieved his red award in his swimming lessons and has progressed to the next level. Well done!



## APPLYING TO ST MARY'S

If you, or if you know someone who is applying to St Mary's for a place in Reception or Nursery September 2025, please refer to the website for application details. Parents are required to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice and an information form, and return them to the main office with your child's baptism cert and a proof of your address by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. You must also apply to your local authority.

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Admissions-04122019150956/>

We have two more open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

From September 2025, our Nursery will be moving to all day sessions only. Morning and afternoon sessions will no longer be available. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## PA NEWS

### Date for your Diary:

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Fireworks Night**

The annual Fireworks Night is taking place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This year, this enjoyable family event is happening at St Mary's and is taking on a new look!

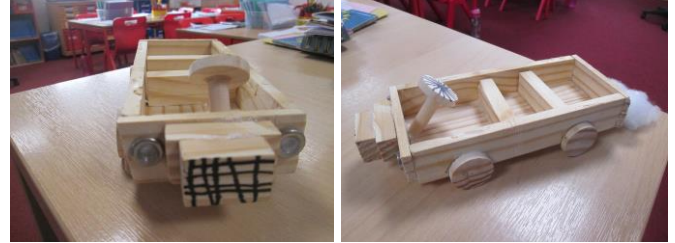
Because of changes in the law, we are unable to set off fireworks on the premises so the PA are introducing something different. Details of the evening will be announced by the PA next week so please look out for information.

There has been some confusion about the dates as the PA members were looking at all the options, but please put Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November on your calendar.

## HOME LEARNING NEWS

Louie Hooper, 2E, made this wonderful wooden car with his grandad in his workshop! The car comes complete with headlights and smoke coming from the exhaust. Louie hopes that his elves can ride it at Christmas!

The children loved seeing Louie's invention; many thanks for showing it to the class.



## GARDENING NEWS

Mrs Everett, who runs the gardening club, wants to share some gardening news! One of her students has been very busy growing things in her garden at home. Helena McGinnes, 3H, was inspired when she started growing runner beans in Y2 as part of their science topic. From there, she has grown beetroot, wild strawberries and raspberries this year and is loving it! I think Helena should send her gardening story to Gardener's World!

