

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 14th January 2022**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**



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**HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE**

Parents should note that we have been informed that the government guidance has changed regarding the isolation period for Covid.

*From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.*

*The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.*

*If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.*

*Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.*

The school has been taking additional measures to keep the staff and children safe including the suspension of physical assemblies and a move to virtual staff meetings. As rates in school continue to drop, we look forward to life returning to normal.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards  
Mr J Sims  
Headteacher

**WEEK BEGINNING 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

Visitor on site talking to the children about Judaism

**Y6 PENPALS**

Y6 children have linked up with the school of one of our former teachers, Miss Hogan. Miss Hogan moved back to Ireland and is working in a school in Dublin, St Raphaela's.

The children wrote to their new pen pals before Christmas and have just received their first reply! They thoroughly enjoyed hearing from their new friends and have been busy this week constructing their letters back.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention"*

*Oscar Wilde*

### APPLYING FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION

If you are applying for your child to start Reception in September 2022, please be aware that the closing date for applications is **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. Everybody must apply online to his or her local authority (1pm deadline) **as well as** providing a Supplementary Form to St Mary's. Supporting documents must also be provided (baptism cert and a current proof of address).

It cannot be stressed enough the importance of submitting the correct forms. Failure to do so could prevent your child from joining St Mary's in September.

The closing date for applying to our Nursery is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Please ensure you make an appointment with your parish priest to get your forms signed. All information for Christchurch is available on their website:

<https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/>

### CHILDREN'S CORNER

Congratulations to Alice Huille (6M) for qualifying for the British Modern Biathlon Championships, which will take place in Bath in March 2022. A great achievement by Alice and the very best of luck to her!

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Children from Y1-Y6 can now join the new netball club. It takes place every Wednesday from 3.30pm-4.30pm in the Junior playground.

Details of the club are attached. Please enquire at the main office if you have any questions.

### SCHOOL DINNERS

Dinner money for this half term (until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February) is £75.11 (£12.95 per week) for all Junior children.

Payment can be made through Wisepay.

If you think that you are entitled to Pupil Premium Free School Meals, please speak to one of the office staff.

Family circumstances may have changed and this benefit may help your family. Help can be given towards school uniform, after school clubs and school trips.

Every enquiry will be treated in confidence.

### PA NEWS

The PA are having a meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in the Gym Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along. The PA like to get new ideas from the school community.

The PA are looking for volunteers to help run the events! Having a list of volunteers to help organise each event makes the event run smoothly and spreads the workload. If you can volunteer, please click on the link below to add your name to the volunteer list. This google sheet has a list of tasks for each event, from wrapping gifts to making event posters, small tasks to bigger ones. Every job is important. You can email the PA directly if you would prefer.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cNfqbQyZbi\\_9GgFvJCFIt7BUo2l8a4\\_t39Di7O\\_cGMk/edit#gid=1614239094](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cNfqbQyZbi_9GgFvJCFIt7BUo2l8a4_t39Di7O_cGMk/edit#gid=1614239094)

Many thanks to the PA for purchasing a new shed for the Infant playground. This shed stores the toys that our children play with during playtime and lunchtime. Some of our parents have been purchasing new toys for the children - thank you for these donations. The PA has a wish list so if you want more information, please email [stmaryspaeltham@gmail.co](mailto:stmaryspaeltham@gmail.co).

Some of our parents/family members kindly put the shed together last weekend. Many thanks to Mr Golebiewski and Mr Labuschagne for co-ordinating this.



### JOB VACANCY

The position of **Business Manager** at St Mary's has become available. Please look on the website for more details:

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/School-Vacancies/>