

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1st October 2021

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

All members of staff were so happy to be able to celebrate our Harvest Mass this week, the first Mass on site since before the pandemic. Fr John came on site and the children from Y1-Y6 attended. It is wonderful to feel that life is slowly returning to normal.

Yesterday evening I attended an event at the House of Commons, to celebrate 10 years of Challenge Partners, an organisation that works to reduce education inequality and improve the life chance of children in its schools.

Originally our Chamber Choir were invited to the event however due to Covid restrictions on numbers at the House of Commons, we had to re-plan and perform in a different way. Mrs McGarry, our music coordinator, produced a video that showcased the talents of St Mary's students. I was so proud to be able to introduce the video and show these educational leaders from around the country just how special our school is.

Please click on the link below to watch *A Million Dreams*.

<https://jwp.io/s/4iUHVE9v>

Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards

Mr J Sims
Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 04/10/2021

Tuesday 5th October

Class 6N celebrate their class Mass in The Convent

Thursday 7th October

The Parent's Association will hold their AGM, at 7pm, in the gym hall. Please come along to hear what their plans are for this year.

Friday 8th October

Inset Day. The school will be closed for staff training so children should not attend school.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of October the UK celebrates Black History Month. There are hundreds of events taking place this month across the country, celebrating key figures who have made substantial contributions to the country.

On 20 October, the Imperial War Museum in London opens an exhibition featuring the "inspiring stories" of black men and women during Second World War. Among them are 18-year-old Billy Strachan, who sold his bicycle and saxophone to pay for a voyage from Jamaica to Britain to join the RAF, and Seth Anthony, who in 1942 became the first black African-born soldier to become an officer in the British army.

The exhibition also features the stories of Thomas Andi, a seaman from Nigeria, and Lilian Bader, a Liverpudlian who became one of the first women to qualify as an RAF instrument repairer. Some of their possessions will be displayed for the first time.

PARENTS EVENINGS WEDNESDAY 13TH/THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Parents will be able to book their timeslot on Wisepay next week. An email will be sent to parents to say when the appointments are live. Please ensure your child's Wisepay account is active to book your appropriate time.

The appointments will run from 3.30pm – 6pm. Each appointment is 10 minutes long. When booking timeslots for more than one child, please allow time in between appointments.

No books are shown on this occasion as the purpose is to hear how your child has settled into their new routine, highlight progress, areas of strength and targets to work on.

Mrs Lopez, our SENCO, will not be booking appointments on these two evenings. She plans to see parents the week beginning Monday 11th October. She will contact parents separately.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Harkin will hold their parents meetings on Tuesday 12th October. More details about timings will follow.

YEAR 3 INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

Y3 children will be taking part in intensive swimming lessons in The Eltham Centre from Monday 11th September. Details have been sent to the Y3 parents.

The children from **Class H** will require a packed lunch for the week that they are taking part in their lessons. If your child requires a school packed lunch please let the main office know.

E-SAFETY

Children and young people now spend a lot of time online so parents need to be even more vigilant. It may be difficult for parents to know how best to supervise the content that children are viewing so online resources that advise are invaluable.

Please click on the link below to read about such resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre. There is advice for parents and ways to help parents deal with their children's online activities. It is important for families to work together to keep out children safe.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/three-resources-help-your-family-manage-online-safety>

BOOK WEEK MONDAY 18TH – THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER

More details will follow regarding this week celebrating books so look out for this information. It is a very busy week for the children with visiting authors, workshops and competitions!

On Thursday 21st October the children will be able to come to school dressed as a book character. You may want to start thinking about this with your child to choose an outfit. We do not want parents to go to great expense so have a look at the raw materials you have at home and be creative!

Parents will be able to see all the children in their outfits at a parade on the morning of Thursday 21st October (weather permitting).

RBG POETRY COMPETITION

In celebration of *National Poetry Day* on October 7th 2021, Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their poetry competition.

The theme for National Poetry Day is **CHOICE**.

Children can write any type of poem that they like inspired by the theme of **choice**. The maximum number of lines, per poem, is 20. There will be a winner and a runner up for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

In school, there will be a winner and runner up in each class!

Children can hand their entries to Miss Collins (with their full name and class) by Friday 5th November.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSFER

If anyone requires help completing their application form for secondary school please do not hesitate to call the school. The deadline for submitting the forms is 31st October 2021. Supplementary Forms must also be completed when applying to Faith schools such as St Thomas More.

If you are getting your form signed with Fr John at Christchurch, please refer to his timetable on the latest newsletter.

https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/docs/newsletters/Newsletter_2021_09_26.pdf

VACANCY

We are currently looking to fill a vacancy as a midday meal supervisor, to begin in November 2021. The job involves working in a team with other supervisors to promote the safety and welfare of the children on their lunch break.

The role is for 1.5 hours per day, Monday – Friday, term time only.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested please phone the main office for more information, including a full job description and pay scale.

WORLD SPACE WEEK

This year World Space Week runs from Monday 4th October – Sunday 10th October. The theme this year is Women in Space, celebrating accomplishments and the contribution that women have made to the space sector. Please look at the website, world Space Week to read more.

<https://www.worldspaceweek.org/>

The Science Museum has many events taking place during World Space Week. Please look at their website as some of the exhibitions may be free for families.

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/world-space-week>

PA NEWS

St Mary's Parent's Association are very excited to be able to plan some events this year. Please put the following dates in your diary. Details to follow.

PA AGM	07/10/21
Bags2School Collection	08/11/21
Fireworks Evening	06/11/21
Wreath Making	03/12/21
Christmas Fair	04/12/21
Children's Disco	10/12/21

The next big event on the calendar is **Fireworks Night!** This is a fun evening for the whole family with a bbq, crepes, soft drinks, entertainment and a fireworks display. Get your friends and family together and enjoy the fireworks!

Tickets are only available to purchase in advance and will not be sold on the evening. Please click on the link below to see details about the tickets.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryspafireworks>

We would like to remind parents that the PA have signed up to a few different sites to help with fundraising.

Amazon Smile on the Amazon app will donate to St Mary's PA a percentage of the money spent on Amazon.

School lottery is very simple to play. Go to <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/> and type in St Mary's RC primary, choose your numbers and wait for the draw on Saturday. All proceeds go to the school Parents Association.

Clothing Labels: If you shop with Nametags, please use this ID code at the checkout and St Mary's PA receive 20% of your order value - 70163

<https://www.mynametags.com/>