

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 21st October 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, it was Class H's turn to celebrate Mass in the Convent. Fr John led the children who read and sang beautifully.

On Tuesday afternoon at Christ Church, Mr Sims, Miss Phipps and Mrs Hansen participated in a training session to become Eucharistic Ministers with Fr John. Fr John reiterated just how this part of our Mass was so important. He asked us to remind parents and children that once they have completed their First Holy Communion, they should receive the body and blood of Jesus with reverence; hands should be positioned like a throne to receive the host.

Today, we welcomed in the Magic Lantern Workshop into Y2 to complete a workshop involving spectacular art!

An email has been sent to all parents regarding a position for Parent Governor on our Governing Body. Please consider putting yourself forward for this rewarding role. If you would like to speak to either Headteacher about the role or what it involves, please contact the main office.

This term has been full of so many achievements, including the youngest children settling in so well at St Mary's. We hope that you have a restful half term and remind parents that Monday 31st is an INSET Day and school will not be open for children.

Enjoy the break!

Mr J Sims and Miss C Phipps
Headteachers

WEEK BEGINNING 31st OCTOBER

Monday 31st

Inset day for staff training. Children will not attend school on this day.

Tuesday 1st

Children return to school in full winter uniform (8.55am)

Fr John on site to celebrate Mass for the feast of All Saint's Day

Thursday 3rd

Rescheduled rugby festival for Y3/4
Tempest photography on site for individual and family photographs

Friday 4th

Rescheduled rugby festival for Y5/6
Tempest photography on site for individual and family photographs

Saturday 5th

PA Event – Fireworks night at Eltham Town FC

WEEKLY WELLBEING

Mindfulness meditation helps to reduce negative emotions, develop mental awareness and improve concentration and attention.

Take 10 minutes out of your weekend to listen to this mindful meditation video from The Story Time Family on YouTube. Even just 10 minutes of meditation daily can make huge differences.

<https://youtu.be/lmtNUC4ZqvU>

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

UNIFORM

The children will return to school on Tuesday 1st November at 8.55am.

They are all required to wear their full winter uniform. Ties must be worn so please ensure the top button of the shirt is done up. Tights must be navy blue or white, **not** black or grey. Grey trousers are optional for boys and girls. Please ensure that coats and jackets are plain navy blue.

Our uniform policy is on our website- please click on the link to read.

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

If you are taking your child to the hairdresser or barber, please ensure that their haircut is neat and tidy. Girls and boys with long hair should have their hair tied back with navy blue hair bands.

Our uniform clearly states that earrings are not allowed in school. Please do not send your child to school wearing earrings or you will be asked to come to remove them. If you wish to get your child's ears pierced, please wait until the beginning of the summer holiday when they have six weeks to heal.

If your child is in Reception, please help and encourage them to get dressed by themselves. Teach them to do up their tie on their own, ensure they know their left foot from their right foot to put their shoes on and teach them to do up buttons. Practice makes perfect and children are happier being independent.

Every child should have a PE bag which is left at school. The kit is sent home for washing at the end of each half term. As the colder weather is on its way, please make sure your child has a navy tracksuit in their bags for outside PE as well as the shorts and tshirt. Girls should have a spare pair of socks in their bag as wearing tights for PE is not hygienic.

Please ask at the main office if you would like some preloved uniform. There will be a preloved uniform sale when we return to school after half term.

PE NEWS

Due to the wet weather, Blackheath Rugby Club felt it better to postpone the rugby festival planned for this week. We are happy to confirm that the event will now take place on Thursday 3rd November for Y3/4 and Friday 4th November for Y5/6, weather permitting.

Details of the event will be emailed to parents once the teams have been confirmed.

GARDENING CLUB

Our new gardening club is up and running and the children are thoroughly enjoying it. The children would like to share what they have been getting up.

They tidied up the area outside the main office, planting some daffodil bulbs and violas. Mrs Everett showed them how to plant bulbs and explained about the growth cycle of a bulb.

They have also cleared an area in which they have planted onions and garlic so we look forward to the spring to reap the rewards.

And to finish off this half term the children have started to gather some seeds to dry out, ready to plant in the spring.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

This week.....

Tilly Callow, 4J, won a bronze medal at an interclass gymnastics competition.

Igor Golebiewski, 2E, has completed stage 2 in his swimming lessons.

Emmett Murphy and Luke Calter, 4I, have both received orange belts in their jujitsu club.

Ruby Salter, 5L, has reached the 100m stage in swimming.

Well done to all the children for their achievements.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for some parent volunteers to help run our bookshop. The bookshop takes place each Wednesday afternoon for the Infant children who choose a book and save up for it, bringing a small amount of money each week.

If you can spare a little time and would like to help please contact the main office. Ideally, if we have a few parents who can help, we can set up a rota, which would mean that you would not have to commit every week.

PHOTOGRAPHER ON SITE

Please note that the photographer will be on site on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th November to take Individual/Family photographs. These should make great Christmas presents for Grandparents etc.

Proofs will be sent to parents as soon as they are received at school.

PA NEWS

The PA are busy planning for the forthcoming events so they would like parents to save the following dates:

Saturday 5th November – Fireworks Night. This event is taking place at *The Oaks, Eltham Town FC, 176 Starbuck Close, SE9 2TD*

Please come along to this exciting family event, which is taking place at a new venue (see above). Gates will open at 6pm and the firework display will start at 7pm. Hot food and drinks will be available. You will also be able to purchase drinks from the bar.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased in advance through Ticket Taylor (adults £6.50, children £3.50).

<https://buytickets.at/stmaryspa/775494>.

Friday 3rd December – Wreath Making. This popular festive annual event will take place in the gym hall. More information about the event and how to purchase tickets will be sent to parents after half term. The tickets will cost £25 and this will include all the materials need to make a wreath with a little glass of mulled wine/prosecco and a mince pie!

Friday 9th December – A Christmas Gathering. More information to follow but please keep this date free.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

As we approach Remembrance Day (November 11th), please look out for Mrs Kingdon and the Faith Friends selling poppies for The Royal British Legion.

A very worthy cause to remember all the people who have given their lives for the service of our country

ATTENDANCE

FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 – FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2022

| RA | RB | 1C | 1D | 2E | 2F | 3G | 3H | 4I | 4J | 5K | 5L | 6M | 6N |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 97% | 97% | 95% | 96% | 98% | 96% | 97% | 97% | 98% | 97% | 98% | 97% | 96% | 97% |

The teachers would like to bring parents attention to attendance. It is so important that children attend school every day but it is also understandable that children get sick and need to take time off to recover.

Well done to classes 2e, 4I and 5K for achieving the highest attendance this half term. Let us hope the half term break will give everyone the rest they need and come back energised for the lead up to Christmas. It has been a difficult time for everyone over the last few years and many illnesses are around us but please ensure your children gets plenty of rest over the break. Plenty of fresh air is a tonic so make the most of the beautiful parks and walks around us. Parents need to build up their children's stamina and immune systems by spending lots of time outdoors running around. It is a huge benefit.

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

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Class A | Nathan, Luella |
| Class B | Charlie, Olive |
| Class C | Jarlath, Daniela |
| Class D | William, Victoria |
| Class E | Conor, Kisabelle |
| Class F | James, Anna |
| Class G | Gianluca, Isla |
| Class H | Hugo, Evie |
| Class I | Elijah, Valentina |
| Class J | Franco, Abbie |
| Class K | Julian, Mary-Eva |
| Class L | Etienne, Harriet |
| Class M | Carlo, Rosie |
| Class N | Lucas, Saphrye |

END OF TERM AWARDS
CELEBRATING SCHOOL VALUES

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Class A | Herbie, Amelie |
| Class B | Joseph, Nora |
| Class C | Brendan, Margot |
| Class D | Jack, Florence |
| Class E | Conor, Aiyanna |
| Class F | Daniele, Esme |
| Class G | Enzo, Mimi |
| Class H | Myles, Lena |
| Class I | Leonardo, Evie |
| Class J | Zorian, Claire |
| Class K | Chris, Amelie |
| Class L | Oscar, Misha |
| Class M | Augustine, Ivonna |
| Class N | Matas, Tolu |

END OF TERM AWARDS
PSHE

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Class A | Vincent |
| Class B | Tily |
| Class C | Valentina |
| Class D | Grace |
| Class E | Cora |
| Class F | Pip |
| Class G | Kaison |
| Class H | Sienna |
| Class I | Luke |
| Class J | Charles |
| Class K | Mia |
| Class L | Misha |
| Class M | Kyle |
| Class N | Lucas |

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs White and the school council put together a list of playground toys they felt the junior children would enjoy playing with at lunchtime. They have been a great success and the children love them.

Many thanks to the school council for their ideas.



RBG POETRY COMPETITION

In celebration of *National Poetry Day*, Royal Borough Greenwich are inviting all students from Greenwich borough schools to enter their poetry competition.

The theme this year is ***The Environment***.

Children can write any type of poem inspired by the theme of ***The Environment***. 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 either hand their entries to Mrs Thaxter or email the main office (with their full name and class) by Friday 4th November.

Use the half term holiday to get composing!

SAMARITIAN'S PURSE

The School Council would like St Mary's to support the Samaritan's Purse charity this year, however we want to avoid putting financial pressure on parents. This year, rather than filling an entire shoebox, we would like families to consider purchasing one gift for the box. Alternatively if you would prefer to fill a box this is also fine. The individual gifts do not need to be wrapped – just label whether the gift is for a boy or girl and the age group.

If anyone has spare shoeboxes, please wrap them in Christmas paper and bring them to school. The school council will help to put all the boxes together. Please be aware there is no pressure and remember our environment!

To send the boxes, the charity asks for a £5 donation; the form can be completed online if this is something you would like to do. To look at the good work this charity does please click on the link below:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/seasonal-christmas-child/>