

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 27th September 2024

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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WEEK BEGINNING 30th
SEPTEMBER

Monday 30th

Sisters of Mercy 150th Anniversary
Mass at Christchurch. Chamber Choir
and Y6 children to attend.

Tuesday 1st

Open morning at 9.15am for
prospective parents

Y5 Class Mass – Convent

Wednesday 2nd

Maths Workshop for all parents. 9am
in the gym hall

PA AGM. Dining Hall 6pm

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

I was so pleased to attend the *Beginning of the Year* Mass at St George's Cathedral in Southwark, on Monday, with our Headboy/Headgirl and Deputy Headboy/Deputy Headgirl. Representatives from 130 schools in the Diocese attended the service, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson and Canon Victor Darlington. This annual Mass marks the start of the school year and was a special Mass for the children to attend.

Many thanks to Dee and Serena Michalakakis for accompanying us.

Children from Y1 – Y5 attended Christchurch this week to celebrate Harvest Festival. Y5 children led this beautiful service and children were encouraged to think of those less fortunate by donating necessary food items to the charities that the Sisters of Mercy support.



Kind regards

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

FAITH FRIENDS

The Faith Friends arranged the Harvest food collection display today. Many thanks for all your donations. We will deliver the donations to the Sisters in the Convent next week so there is still time to donate if you wish to.



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

PRAYER AND LITURGY

Heze and Molly, 1D, prepared the focal area for prayer and liturgy.

The class shared the story of David and Goliath which tells us that we can face big problems and should not be afraid because God is always looking after us.



LITERACY



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

Squeezes Brian Patten

*We love to squeeze bananas
We love to squeeze ripe plums
And when we are feeling sad
We love to squeeze our mums!*

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 write a story that you would love to read in 500 words or less!

Please inform us if you enter a story...we would love to read it!

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

GREAT FIRE LONDON WORKSHOP

Today, Freshwater Theatre Company visited Y2 children to run a drama workshop on The Great Fire of London 1666.

"We all took part in acting out scenes from Thomas Farnon's bakery, Pudding Lane and Samuel Pepys' diary writing. We had great fun and were able to share what we already knew about The Great Fire of London as well as learn new things, through drama".



OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on Monday 7th October.

Parents are invited to come and say the Rosary with the Faith Friends on Friday 4th and Friday 11th October at 8.30am in the gym hall. The Faith Friends will lead this prayer service.

MATHS AND PHONICS WORKSHOPS

Mrs Green will be holding a maths workshop on **Wednesday 2nd October at 9am** in the gym hall.

This is open to all parents/carers from Reception – Y6. The workshop will be an overview on the way children are taught maths at St Mary's.

Details of this workshop can be viewed on the website:

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/Maths-at-St-Mary-s/>



WRAPAROUND AWARD SUNSHINE OF THE MONTH

Jessica Little, 4I, was today awarded the wraparound "sunshine of the month". Jessica shows kindness and is always happy to help. Well done to Jessica!



PA NEWS

On Wednesday 2nd October, the PA will be holding a meeting at 6pm in the dining hall to discuss the upcoming events for this year. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

At the same time, we will be holding the Annual General Meeting of the Parents' Association where all members of the committee must step down and be re-elected. This year, Marta Inkin (the Secretary) and Iryna Shkilna (co-Treasurer) are stepping down from their roles. We are, therefore, looking to fill these positions. Being a registered charity, we must fill the roles.

Secretary - this can be a role shared by 2 individuals. The secretary is in charge of daily communication between the PA and school/parents, as well as various administrative duties such as taking notes during PA meetings, renewing licences and keeping volunteer lists for various events.

Co-Treasurer - this role will be shared with Ania McGinnes (current co-treasurer). Treasurers are jointly responsible for control and management of PA funds and bank accounts, completing end of year reports, ordering cash floats for events and paying suppliers.

The remaining nominations are as follows:

1. Co- Chair - Helen Marchant and Laura Brewster
2. Co-Treasurer - Ania McGinnes and TBC
3. Secretary or Co-secretary - TBC
4. Voices of the PA:
 - Claire Maskell Gibson
 - Michelle Prove
 - Marta Inkin
 - Shelley Ross-Harding

If you would like more information or to put yourself forward for any of these roles, please let us know at stmaryspaeltham@gmail.com and come along to the meeting. St Mary's Catholic School Parents Association (PA) contributes significantly to the school. Whether it's providing tools to aid children's learning in the classroom or purchasing equipment for the playground, we are an important resource to the school.

The St Mary's PA Committee organises various events at our school with the aim of building a community and raising funds for the children - all proceeds of our events go directly to the school so that the students benefit from new items and maintenance of safe play and sporting areas.

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 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 15th January 2025. You must also apply to your local authority.

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

We have three open mornings for parents and carers to come and visit – Tuesday 1st October, Tuesday 12th November and Tuesday 7th January. Please phone the main office to book onto the tour.

PARENTS EVENINGS

WEDNESDAY 16TH/THURSDAY 17TH 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.

Mrs Henderson will contact parents of children with SEN with appointment times.