Weekly Newsletter
Friday 4th September 2026

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of St Mary's.

I will be based at St Mary's for two days each week and am very much looking forward to becoming part of the school community. I have been working closely with Mr Sims and with the Deputy Headteachers, Mrs Pita and Miss Brophy, to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

St Mary's has an excellent reputation and I know how proud the whole community is of the school. Mrs Pita and Miss Brophy are highly capable leaders who know the school and its children extremely well and I look forward to working alongside them to continue building on the wonderful opportunities and outcomes that St Mary's provides for your children.

I am excited to meet you and your children over the coming weeks and to work together as we continue to help every child flourish.

Ms Oram
Executive Headteacher

WEEK BEGINNING 7th SEPTEMBER

Monday 7th September
Reception children will stay all day.
8.55am – 3.15pm

Music tutors back on site

After school clubs restart

Thursday 10th September
Y4 Swimming Lessons. Class J

A Prayer for Our School Community

Loving God,

As we begin this new school term, we thank You for the gift of learning, friendship, and community.

Bless our students with curiosity and courage, our teachers with wisdom and patience, and our families with love and support.

May our school be a place of kindness, respect, and growth where everyone feels valued and encouraged.

Guide us in all we do, so that this term is filled with joy, learning, and hope.

Amen.

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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 7th September. Details about registering children in clubs have already been sent to parents and carers.

Many of the clubs are now full so please contact Mrs Jeffrey in the main office if you have questions.

Please ensure you pick your child up promptly when their club has finished. If you are going to be late, please inform us. Parents and carers can book wraparound care, which is open until 6pm every evening.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, please speak to the office staff about the after-school clubs and how we can help you. Please note that the Pupil Premium Funding has changed this year so double check your entitlement.

Y6 SECONDARY TRANSITION MEETING

We would like parents of children in Y6 to attend a meeting on Tuesday 15th September at 6pm in the gym hall, to discuss the transition to secondary school and the PGL residential trip. Children are invited to attend with their parents.

Mr Sharp, Headteacher from St Thomas More Comprehensive, will be in attendance to explain the secondary application process for St Thomas More.

BEXLEY 11+

If your Y6 child is sitting the Bexley 11+, please ensure that you inform the main office and send us the confirmation email you have received from Bexley. Children are expected to attend school for the session they are not taking the exam. For example, if your child is sitting the exam in the afternoon, they should attend school as normal in the morning, and vice versa.

GIVING MESSAGES TO THE MAIN OFFICE

If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the main office by phone call or email. The teachers will not let any child go unless it has been confirmed who is collecting them. Sometimes this may happen at the last minute but we need a message before we hand your child over. Your child's safety is very important, so thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Children in Y5/Y6 can walk home on their own. If you are allowing your child to leave school on their own, please inform the main office, in writing, so we can keep the information on file.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME AT CHRISTCHURCH

Please note that the application portal for the children receiving First Holy Communion, in Christchurch, in 2027 is now open. Please click on the link below to access the information.

Fr John has asked that parents and carers ensure that they have registered their child as the lessons will be starting soon.

If you have any questions, please phone the parish office for more information (020 8850 1666)

https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Courses/

CHAMBER CHOIR/ MUSIC NEWS

Mrs McGarry is holding auditions next week, for the children who are interested in joining the **Chamber Choir**. The auditions will take place during the children's lunch break in the music room. Chamber Choir is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their confidence, singing skills and teamwork, while enjoying performing together.

Wednesday 9th September Y3 & Y4
Thursday 10th September Y5 & Y6

To audition, children have to prepare a section of their song choice to sing for Mrs McGarry. They can bring the lyrics with them if they wish to. There are limited spaces available so if your child is unsuccessful this time, they will go on the waiting list for a space to become available.

The Chamber Choir rehearses every Thursday between 3.30pm - 4.30pm and children must be available to attend each week. The first rehearsal will take place on Thursday 17th September at 3.15pm.

Orchestra will start on Wednesday 16th September at 12:15pm. If your child has been learning their instrument for at least a term and would like to join the orchestra, please let the main office or Mrs McGarry know.

Infant choir will take place every Tuesday lunchtime for children in Y1 & Y2. All children are able to attend if they wish. This will start on Tuesday 15th September.

KEY DATES

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them. The calendar on the school website has been updated with some dates. We endeavour to inform parents as soon as these dates are confirmed as working parents may need to book time off work for certain events.

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