

**Weekly Newsletter**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome back everyone.

We are so pleased to welcome all our new students this week to St Mary's. Should any parent have any questions about any aspect of school life, please speak to me or contact the main office.

When walking around the school, I have been so impressed about how well our children have started the year. They are eager to learn, well behaved and working hard.

I started the school year with a whole school assembly. The new Y6 children helped me welcome everyone back and lead us in prayer.



Enjoy the weekend!

Kind regards

Mrs Hansen

Head of School

WEEK BEGINNING 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

Reception children stay at school all day (8.55am–3.15pm)

Children who attend all day Nursery will stay for lunch

Music tutors return on site

After school clubs' restart

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

Class 1 Swimming – Eltham Centre

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

KS2 Cricket coaching begins

#### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

Avery Hill Flower Show

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTCHURCH

#### First Holy Communion Preparation

If your child is in year 3 or above and you want them to receive the sacrament of First Communion, please note that the First Holy Communion course commences on Saturday 21st September at Christchurch.

To enrol your child in this meaningful program, please complete the online application by **Monday 16th September**.

[https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Course-2023\\_2024/](https://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk/First-Holy-Communion-Course-2023_2024/)

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

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD

We are delighted to announce that St Mary's has been awarded intermediate level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with international partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement for the wider community
- Staff have worked hard to include international topics within their year group curriculum, and together with extra-curricular events such as the Food and Fellowship afternoon, French day and our Y5 pen-pal link with a French school, we were successful in our application.

We are very proud of our international school!

## 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.

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Well done to Helena McGinnes, 3H, who completed the Marvellous Makers Reading Challenge during the Summer holiday. Helena read a whopping 40 books!

Very well done Helena....keep that momentum going!



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Laura Banasiak, 2E, has recently completed stage 2 in her swimming lessons and is very excited to be in stage 3!

Well done to Laura!



## CHAMBER CHOIR

### Message from Mrs McGarry

Well done to everyone who auditioned for the Chamber Choir this week. The children should all be very proud of themselves.

With nearly 60 auditions and only 18 spaces it was a very difficult decision.

I have sent letters out today to those who have been successful this time. If your child did not get a letter, they will be placed on a waiting list and should a place become available we will contact parents.

The children should not be too disappointed as they all did a fantastic job. If I could take them all, I would!

Chamber Choir begins next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 3:15-4:30.

## ESAFETY

Your children have returned to school a little bit more mature than they left! Please take a look at some safety advice to keep your children "smart" whilst online.



## MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be on site from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. If your child was having lessons in school last year, they will continue to have lessons. There are spaces for all instrument lessons (flute, clarinet, brass, guitar, violin, piano) open to all children from Y3 – Y6. Children will be notified once the new timetable has been confirmed.

Children in Y3 can start taking instrument lessons. If your child is interested, please email the main office ([jjefferys@stmaryseltham.org](mailto:jjefferys@stmaryseltham.org) or [sjeffrey@stmaryseltham.org](mailto:sjeffrey@stmaryseltham.org), with your first and second choice. Mrs McGarry will then allocate. Some of the lessons are oversubscribed but we will endeavour to place the children in their first choice.

School orchestra will resume at lunchtime on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. This is open to children from Y4-Y6 who are having regular instrument lessons, either in school or outside school.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Details about registering children in clubs have already been sent. Many of the clubs are now full so please contact Mrs Jeffrey in the main office if you have questions.

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.

## KEY DATES

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them. The calendar on the school website has already 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.

## PA NEWS

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.