

Weekly Newsletter
Friday 9th September 2022

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHERS

Queen Elizabeth II

Yesterday evening, the nation learnt that Queen Elizabeth II had died and that England had a new king. This morning, the children and staff gathered together to pay tribute to our inspirational monarch who was herself so inspired by her own **faith**. We discussed her values and realised that we share many in common: the **love** that she had for her country by diligently carrying out her duty; the **respect** that she showed to all who she met; the **resilience** that she showed through difficult times.

Whilst it is sad that we have lost such an important person, we must feel fortunate that we have had such a role model within our lives.

As a school, we offer our sincere condolences to The Royal Family and enter into this period of mourning with reverence and respect.

The Queen is dead; long live the king.

With kind regards

Mr J Sims and Miss C Phipps
Headteachers



WEEK BEGINNING 12/09/2022

Monday 12th

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

After school clubs begin
Music Tutors back on site

Tuesday 13th

Class N Mass – 10am - Convent

Thursday 15th

Swimming begins for Class J

Friday 16th

Blackheath Rugby Club on site to
teach tag rugby to the Junior children

WEEKLY WELLBEING

Gratitude

Gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. It helps people appreciate what they have received in life, feel emotions that are more positive and relish good experiences.

Spend some time this week as a family talking about some of the things you are all grateful for in your lives. You could write down three things you are grateful for each day or write a letter to someone telling them why you are grateful for them!

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

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume next week, beginning Monday 12th September. Details about registering your child have been sent to parents.

Please note that details of the new **gardening club** have been emailed to parents. If you would like your child to participate, please return your completed form to the main office.

Due to popular demand, we have added an **extra art session**, run by Arty Party, which will take place every Thursday from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Please contact Arty Party if you are interested.

<https://artyparty.co.uk/afterschoolclubs/stmarys>

We are also in the process of setting up a **Science club**. This will be starting after the half term break in October so look out for information regarding this. Day to be confirmed.

A new after school timetable will be sent to parents once everything is confirmed.

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.

WELCOME TO NURSERY POEM

*It's been a big week for you and a big week for me,
Take a look at my picture and what do you see?
A great big smile from ear to ear,
Showing how happy I am to be here!
Two little hands ready to play,
And a curious mind learning away.
My legs and my feet ready to run,
And a full heart just waiting to reach for the sun.
I can't wait to show you all the learning I'll do,
And don't forget the fun I'll have too!
It's time for my teacher to care for me and help me learn and grow,
At the end of each day I will tell you tales of all the things I know!
So sit back, relax, take a deep breath and smile,
I'll have the best time in Nursery, St. Mary's style!*

MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be back on site next week to begin teaching. Children from Y4 – Y6 can participate in lessons. If your child is interested, please email the main office with their intent. Their place will be confirmed once the final numbers have been agreed.

Y3 will be offered the opportunity to have lessons if there is availability after the October half term.

School orchestra will resume at lunchtime on Wednesday 14th September. All children who receive lessons at St Mary's are invited to attend. We would love if your child is receiving music lessons outside of school to join in also. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate piano players at this time.

Message from Mrs McGarry:

A huge well done to everyone who auditioned for me this week! You should all be very proud of yourselves. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to everyone and I am very impressed with the talent at St Mary's. Due to limited numbers, I cannot offer everyone a place in the Chamber Choir so those who did not get a place this time will be put on a waiting list. I will refer to the waiting list should a place become available.

Children who have been offered a place in the choir will receive a confirmation letter and I look forward to seeing those children, along with the rest of the choir on **Thursday 15th September** for our first rehearsal of the year.

Thank you to everyone who auditioned.

PE NEWS

St Mary's have been given a wonderful opportunity to participate in the **Blackheath Rugby Club, tag rugby program**. The program will take place every Friday for all students in Y3-Y6.

Two coaches from Blackheath Rugby Club will come to school for five weeks to teach our students the skills and tactics for tag rugby. After the training, a group of students from each year level will be invited to compete against other schools in a festival spanning two days. The program begins on **Friday 16th September** and we are excited to see our children in action!

RE NEWS

Mrs Kingdon led the Faith Friends in prayer to celebrate our Mother Mary's birthday on Thursday 8th September.

Sr Susan from the Convent of Mercy attended the special celebration.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Ruby, Poppy and Hope Salter, 5L, took part in a challenge on CBBC's Saturday Mash-Up, sticking cereal to their faces! The girls thoroughly enjoyed their brush with fame!



UNIFORM

Unfortunately, a number of students have come into school wearing earrings. As part of our uniform policy, jewellery of any kind is not permitted. This is because there have been incidents of children wearing earrings, catching them and causing serious damage.

We did remind parents that should any ears be pierced, this should happen at the beginning of the six week break to give them time to heal.

We again ask parents not to send any child into school wearing earrings.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Food and Fellowship Event

Mrs Whitewood is organising a **multi-cultural Food and Fellowship Event on Thursday 29th September** at 3.30pm.

Families are invited to come to the gym hall, with a traditional dish, and try the different international foods that will be on offer. Come along for a chat and to sample the delicious foods on offer.

Details of the event are attached and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Y6 TRANSITION EVENING

Y6 parents are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 20th September to hear all about the application process for secondary school and the residential journey to Kingswood in January 2023.

The meeting will take place in the gym hall at 6pm. It is important that you attend to help any questions you may have about this important process.

If you are interested in a place for your child in St Thomas More Comprehensive, please note the open evening is on Wednesday 21st September from 6pm – 9pm.

PRELOVED UNIFORM

We are holding a preloved uniform sale on **Friday 16th September** at St Mary's. This will take place in the Infant playground from 2.30pm.

Please come along, as there are many items to choose from.

CLAIMING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork. Ask the office staff to guide you. **Enquiries will be treated confidentially so please do not hesitate to ask any questions.** It is very important that parents enquire about pupil premium as families can really benefit. Many families may be experiencing financial hardship as the cost of living is rapidly increasing, so please do not hesitate to speak to the office staff (Mrs Jefferys or Mrs Jeffrey).

Although Infants are entitled to free meals, they too can apply for pupil premium if their financial situation is below a certain threshold. Every school receives extra funding if parents make successful claims. Parents are encouraged to look into this as children can benefit in so many ways (help with music tuition, subsidising after school clubs/educational visits etc.)

SCHOOL FUND

Each year we ask parents for a voluntary contribution (£10 per family) to subsidise extra events. If you would like to contribute, please log onto your child's Wisepay account where you will see "**School Fund 2022/2023**".

This fund helps to subsidise visiting theatre companies, merit awards etc. All children in the school benefit from these special events.

Many thanks for your support.