



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRUST

C.E.O.: Miss L. O'Callaghan

[www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk)



## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 1

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to life at St Mary's. After the long Summer Holiday, it was a joyous day on Tuesday to welcome the children back to school. The children all looked so smart in their uniforms, and many thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to make this happen. The children are very proud of how they look.

At the start of a new year, there are always changes. We have welcomed new colleagues and will be saying goodbye to some others soon.

### **Mrs Susan Namirembe**

Welcome to Mrs Namirembe, who is joining our Year 6 team as a teaching assistant. Mrs Namirembe has lots of experience working in Key Stage 2 and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

### **Mrs Suzie Lynch**

Mrs Lynch will be leaving the school on 15<sup>th</sup> September. She has served the children in our school for seventeen years, and made such an important contribution to lives of so many children. She will be missed by all of us. We wish her success in her change of career.

### **Miss Maria Trombetta**

Our administrative assistant Miss Trombetta will be leaving us at the end of September to take up a new role in another school. The smooth running of our school office is credit to Miss Trombetta and our Office Manager Mrs Lord. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Miss Trombetta for being a wonderful colleague. Her dedication to her role cannot be highlighted enough. On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to work with her for five years and I wish her every happiness for this next stage in her life.

Many of the important details for the start of term have been shared with you in the letter that I sent to all families on our return on Tuesday, but please make a note of the following points that will help us to get into good routines for this new term.

### **ParentPay**

ParentPay is our online service for payment of clubs and facilities in school. Whilst it has been mostly used for the payment of school meals, it is also important for other educational activities. As you will all be aware, the Mayor of London has funded free school meals for all children in the Junior School for this academic year.

*However, this will end next July.* It is important therefore to keep your PayPal account active.

Already live on ParentPay for booking is our new offer for **football** after school on Friday afternoons. This is for children in **Years 3 and 4**, and we strongly encourage any girls who would like to take part to sign up, especially after the great summer of England Women's football team has had. We need a new generation of football superstars!

Other after school activities that can also be booked are **Swimming on Wednesday** afternoon, and **Swim Squad on Thursday**. Swim Squad members will be invited to attend by Miss Aherne.

### **Free School Meals eligibility**

As explained above, school meals are free for everyone for this year. However, there are lots of advantages to making sure that you claim any support that you are entitled to. The free meal for your child is just one element of a level of funding received by the school that can support them in school for their education.

### **Parking**

We frequently receive complaints from local residents about antisocial parking at the start and the end of the school day. We appreciate that dropping off and collecting your child is a busy and stressful time, and would like to thank all the many parents who park considerately and safely. However, we would like to remind those who continue to park on others' property or in contravention of traffic regulations to consider other people. Sadly, this is an issue around which I have made many appeals over recent years, and to a small number the requests are ignored. We are facing the possibility of Croydon Council taking much more severe action soon if this problem continues, which would inconvenience everyone.

### **Year 3 Parents**

Thank-you to all the parents of children starting in Year 3 for being so supportive and understanding at the start of each day. We ask that from Monday parents say goodbye to children at the pupil gate, and allow them to come into the playground on their own. This is an important step for all the children. I will be on hand to offer support if needed.

### **Medication**

The start of a new academic year is a good opportunity to check the validity of any medication that your child needs to keep with them in school. If your child has an asthma pump, please check that one is with them in school and that you have a spare for home.

### **Assemblies**

As I explained in the letter on Tuesday, Class Assemblies will begin at **10.25am** on Thursday this term.

The forthcoming assemblies for this half term are as follows:

14<sup>th</sup> September – Class 6P

21<sup>st</sup> September – Class 6G

28<sup>th</sup> September – Class 5C

5<sup>th</sup> October – Class 5B

12<sup>th</sup> October – Class 4T

19<sup>th</sup> October – Class 4D

We are aware that the start of the assembly later in the day may be difficult for some parents which is why we are trying to give you as much notice as possible.

The achievement certificates this week are awarded to All in 3A, All in 3E, Andrew in 4D, Veronica and Joel in 4T, Jason, Harrison and Adya in 5B, Isla in 5C, Havio in 6G and Sreya in 6P. The Head of School's award goes to Zac in 6G and the swimmer of the week award goes to Vanessa in 6P.

### **Job Vacancies**

I would like to draw your attention to two job vacancies that have been posted on our website. To find them, click the Trust Information tab and navigate to Staff Vacancies. In the Junior School we are looking to recruit a teaching assistant and administrative assistant at the earliest opportunity.

I wish you a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew McDonald

Head of School

### **Health Advice for parents**

#### **Heat Health Alerts**

Please visit the Met Office website for up to date information about all extreme weather events:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

#### **Coronavirus**

*The World Health Organisation now considers the covid pandemic to not be a global health emergency. For advice and support if you suspect someone has covid, please visit:*

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

#### **Fevers**

UKHSA advises parents of children with a high temperature ( $+38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to keep them home from school, and monitor symptoms. If in doubt, ring **111** for advice.

#### **Group A Strep (*streptococci*)**

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Children with these symptoms should not attend school.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>